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PART XII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF THIBET.



1909.

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Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Thibet.

PART XII.

[45441]

No. 1.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

DALAI LAMA.

Foreign Office, January 4, 1909.

With reference to your despatch No. 476 Confidential, of the 25th October last, you should inform the Delegation that the King has been pleased to accept the scarf. His Majesty desires that his thanks be conveyed to the Dalai Lama for the present. At the same time you should convey to His Holiness an expression of the King's best wishes for the well-being and prosperity of himself and of Thibet, and for maintaining the present friendly relations between that country and Great Britain.

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No. 2.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 6.)

(No. 12.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, January 6, 1909.

AS reported in my telegram No. 204 of the 21st ultimo, the Dalai Lama with his suite left Peking on the 21st ultimo, and I am therefore unable to transmit to him the King's message contained in your telegram No. 3 of the 4th instant. My only means of doing so would be through the Wai-wu Pu, a course which, I think, should be avoided if possible.

I would suggest that the message might be communicated to the Dalai Lama by the Indian Government on the pontiff's arrival in Lhasa next spring.

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No. 3.

Mr. Bryce to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 7, 1909.)

(No. 347. Very Confidential.)

Sir,

Washington, December 17, 1908.

THE President asked me to come to see him to-day, and handed me a long letter which he had received from Mr. Rockhill, the United States' Minister at Peking, narrating interviews which he had had with the Dalai Lama and with one of his chief Councillors, commonly known to us as Dorjjeff. The President explained to me that there might be in the letter comparatively little that would be new to His Majesty's Government, as Mr. Rockhill had already communicated the substance of what it

contained to the British Minister at Peking, and had also told the Russian Minister a good deal, knowing that in any case the latter would hear of what had passed from Dorjief, who is a Russian subject. The President, however, thought that possibly there might be things in the letter which you would like to know in the way they had been recorded by Mr. Rockhill, and that, be that as it might, I should be interested in reading an account at first hand of these curious transactions which (as Mr. Rockhill observes) mark the extinction of the secular power of the Buddhist Church in Thibet. At the risk of placing before you much that you know already, I have, nevertheless, thought well to have copied and send you *in extenso* this remarkable narrative given in Mr. Rockhill's own words. I have thanked the President cordially for the mark of confidence and friendliness he has given in communicating the letter.

There is a sort of tragic interest in observing how the Chinese Government, like a huge anaconda, has enwrapped the unfortunate Dalai Lama in its coils, tightening them upon him till complete submission has been extorted.

The triumph of the secular over the spiritual power recalls the famous occasion when the Emperor Henry V seized Pope Paschal II and a number of his Cardinals, and kept them prisoners until the Pontiff consented to the terms which, after regaining his liberty, he repudiated. The difference in the ultimate issue of that conflict between the two Powers would afford matter for an instructive historical comparison and contrast.

It deserves to be noticed in this case that not only has the Dalai Lama been thrust down to a lower position than his recent predecessors had occupied, by being obliged to send his Memorials to the Chinese Government through the Chinese Viceroy at Thibet, but that these are not permitted when they reach China to go direct to the Sovereign. That they are to be first seen by the Ministers is an evidence of the purpose of the ruling group to strengthen the hold upon the reins of Government of the higher bureaucracy.

Mr. Rockhill's remark upon the advantage it would be to His Majesty's Government to have a Trade Agent at Lhasa will be noted.

The history of this whole transaction enforces once more the moral which seems the natural one to be drawn from the British expedition into Thibet. The chief result of that expedition has been to immensely strengthen the hold of China on Thibet, making it now almost a province of the Chinese Empire, and therewith to give British India upon the northern frontier, instead of the feeble and half barbarous Thibetans, a strong, watchful, and tenacious neighbour which may one day become a formidable military Power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES BRYCE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 3.

Mr. Rockhill to President Roosevelt.

Dear Mr. President,

American Legation, Peking, November 8, 1908.

I HAVE deferred replying sooner to your very kind letters of the 1st August and 7th September, so as to be able to give you the information you express the wish to have concerning "what passes between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese Government during his stay at Peking." Although he has not yet left, the story can already be told; his case is already settled.

After much hesitation, with much misgiving, and only after repeated and peremptory representations from Peking, the Dalai Lama and his suite left the Wu-tai Shan, where I had seen him in June, in the latter part of September, and travelled to a place called Tingchou on the railway between here and Hankow. There he found a special train waiting for him, and on the 28th September he made his entry into Peking, where he was received with the highest honours. He took up his residence at the big lamasery outside the north gates of the city.

An Imperial audience was granted him for the 6th October, but the day before it was to have taken place it was countermanded. It was said that the Dalai refused to comply with the Court ceremonial, which included kneeling and kotowing, contending that it had not been required of his predecessor, the fifth Dalai Lama, when he had visited the first Emperor of this dynasty at Mukden. However this may be, no reasons were given by the Imperial Government for countermanding the audience at the last moment and fixing it for the 14th October. I am disposed to

think that the Government deferred the audience simply to show the Dalai Lama that he was subject to the orders of the Court.

The day after his arrival in Peking the Dalai Lama sent one of his officers to see me, to ask concerning my health, and requesting me to come and see him. I suggested that he wait until after his audience; as soon, however, as it was put off he sent again, and asked me to come to his residence. He allowed me to bring all the staff of the Legation to present to him. I saw him on the 6th October, the day he should have had his audience. I found him in a much less happy frame of mind than when I had seen him last; he was evidently irritable, preoccupied, and uncommunicative. My reception, at which no Chinese were present, only lasted some ten minutes. He asked after you and whether you had received his greetings sent you from the Wu-tai Shan. I told him you had, and that you had directed me to tell him that you were greatly pleased at receiving them, and that you wished him all happiness and prosperity. He said he would send some of his abbots in a day or two to see me.

On the 9th October the Chinese Foreign Office informed the Legations that the Dalai Lama would receive the foreign Representatives and their suites any day from noon to 3 o'clock, Sundays excepted, when they would be presented to him by certain Chinese officials deputed for that purpose. This measure was evidently taken so as to prevent the Dalai Lama from holding private intercourse with foreigners and to keep him in ignorance, so far as possible, of what the Imperial Government proposed doing concerning him, increase his fears, and make him entirely subservient to the wishes of China. No high Chinese officials called upon him, and he has from that day to this been kept in complete seclusion.

On the 19th October the Russian Minister called on me and said that the Dalai Lama's Councillor, Khampo Nawang Lozang Dorjé, better known by his Russified name of Dorjief (he is a Russian subject and was once supposed by the Indian Government to be a Russian Agent, and his presence in Thibet was one of the direct causes of the British expedition of 1904), had been to see him by order of the Dalai Lama to ask information concerning the settlement of Thibetan affairs the Chinese Government proposed to make, and of which he was absolutely in the dark. He also wished the Russian Minister's advice—should the Dalai Lama remain here and settle them, or should he return to Thibet at once?

M. Korostovetz said he had told Dorjief that he thought the Dalai Lama had only to submit to what the Chinese Government might decide upon, but he had no advice to give. The time when Russia was concerned in advising or supporting Eastern rulers was at an end: as a spiritual ruler Russia was greatly interested in the welfare of the Dalai Lama; as a temporal ruler he must obey China.

Dorjief then had said that, since Russia would not advise the Dalai Lama, he must ask the British Minister to assist him. M. Korostovetz told him he thought it would be quite useless, as Sir John Jordan had told him that he could hold no direct relations with the Thibetans; so far as he was concerned, questions concerning Thibet must be settled with the Chinese Government, the suzerain State. The Russian Minister then advised Dorjief to see me, the Representative of an absolutely disinterested Power, and ask my advice. This Dorjief said he would be pleased to do, if the Russian Minister would arrange an interview. I told M. Korostovetz that I would be pleased to see Dorjief whenever he called.

On the 21st Dorjief called on me, accompanied by another Khampo, a confidential adviser of the Dalai Lama. Dorjief was a few years ago a terribly important figure in the eyes of the Indian Government, a deep and designing personage, intriguing in Thibet in the sole interests of Russia. I found him a quiet, well-mannered man, impressionable like all Mongols, and apparently but very little less ignorant of politics and the world in general than the Thibetans, though he has travelled over Europe and Asia. He is evidently devoted to his religion and to the head of his Church, the Dalai Lama, whom he has sought to assist as best he could. It was natural for him to turn to Russia for advice, being a Russian subject, and having received his early education in that country, but I do not think he was, or is, more of an intriguer than any Asiatic would be when confronted for the first time with, to him, such a new and intricate question as Thibet's policy in Central Asian politics, and in relation to the two great Empires its neighbours.

Dorjief told me that the Dalai Lama had heard said that the Chinese Government was making certain important changes in the internal administration of Thibet. He did not know their nature and extent. He wished to know whether in my opinion it were better for him to remain in Peking until the changes were made or

to return at once to Lhasa. He was without any of his advisers on temporal matters; he felt unable to cope with the questions which might be raised without their assistance; but he feared to go until the programme of Thibetan reforms had been settled, for he apprehended that the Chinese Government sought to curtail the temporal power he and his predecessors had wielded from before the Manchus came to the Throne of China.

I replied that, whatever may have been the sovereign rights of the Dalai Lama before the present dynasty came to the throne, his present position, like that of his predecessors since the middle of the eighteenth century, was that of a vassal prince, whose duties, rights, and prerogatives had been fixed by the succeeding Emperors. I understood from the Chinese public press that the Government contemplated an administrative reform of Thibet, the dividing of the country into regular administrative districts as in China proper, the reorganization of the military forces of the country, of the currency, of education, the extension of agriculture and stock-raising, and of the opening of roads, &c. If these were really the reforms contemplated, I could not see what objection the Dalai Lama could have to them. Furthermore, military questions, relations with foreign States, educational questions (in some countries) were all Imperial matters which could not be left to the various States to deal with independently.

Dorjief said the Dalai Lama had absolutely no objection to raise against the extension of education in Thibet, nor to military reforms. He was also perfectly satisfied with the Treaty concluded with Thibet and China by Great Britain, and with the recent Regulations for trade between Thibet and India. He had no fault to find with the existing relations with Russia; he solely feared China's encroachment on his temporal authority. He wished to place before the Emperor two points which he considered of paramount importance. The first was that the Yellow Church should be maintained in all its honours, the second that the right should be given him to submit directly to the Throne any Memorials he might wish to make, after previous arrangement with the Chinese Amban (*i.e.*, Minister-Resident) in Lhasa, and without passing, as at present, through the hands of the Viceroy of Szechuan and the Li-fan Pu (Board of Dependencies), either of which might pigeon-hole them. All other questions he considered of minor importance as compared to them.

I said, concerning the first point to which the Pontiff attached importance, that I felt convinced that the Emperor and his Government would do nothing whatever to lessen the dignity of the Yellow Church, that it was the traditional policy of this dynasty to uphold it; I thought he might confidently count on the continuance of the Imperial favour. Concerning the second point, I advised the Dalai Lama to ascertain, informally, how such a request would be received, and act accordingly. Personally, I thought what he asked for was reasonable and in the interest of good government, that it insured his representations reaching the throne, and that I could not see what serious objections could be made to it, if the Chinese Government was made aware how greatly he desired this privilege.

Dorjief said he would report at once to the Dalai Lama what I had said, and that he would bring me a draft of what he wished to place before the Emperor concerning the two points mentioned above. He said that, could these be settled, the Dalai Lama would at once leave for Lhasa; all other questions could be arranged by some of his abbots, whom he would leave here to discuss them with the Board of Dependencies.

I said that I had for the last three years constantly advised the Dalai Lama to return without delay to Lhasa, and that I still thought this highly desirable. He should, however, show the Chinese Government that he was sincerely favourable to all measures for the good of his country, as on this must depend the continuance of the Imperial favour, and the granting to him of the favours he so much desired.

I gathered from this very long conversation that the Dalai Lama cared very little, if at all, for anything which did not affect his personal privileges and prerogatives; that he separated entirely his cause from that of the people of Thibet, which he was willing to abandon entirely to the mercy of China. He did not care particularly concerning the contemplated administrative reforms, so long as he could feel assured that his personal honours and privileges were safe, and if possible slightly added to. The Chinese Government must have reached the same conclusion. While it has treated him simply as the Head of the Yellow Church, and has shown him honours accordingly, it has made him clearly realize that he was a subject of the Emperor; no information whatsoever concerning the administrative reforms to be introduced into Thibet has been given him, no opportunity afforded him of speaking of or discussing any questions with the Chinese Government.

The title of Prince of the First Order has been conferred upon him. On the 30th October an Imperial banquet was given him, at which the Emperor was present, and many rich presents have been sent him by the Empress-Dowager and the Emperor.

On the 3rd November the Empress-Dowager celebrated with great ceremony her 75th birthday. The Dalai Lama, with the Princes and Ministers of State, offered her congratulations. The same day appeared an Edict, in the name of the Empress-Dowager, conferring a new title on the Dalai Lama, longer by four characters than that he had formerly borne, granting him an annual pension of 10,000 taels, but also ordering him to start at once to Thibet, and enjoining on him to induce his people to obey the laws and keep the peace, and on him personally to comply with the laws and show his gratitude to the Throne for protecting the Yellow Church and undertaking to insure peace to Thibet. I inclose a copy of this Edict, which is memorable, as it probably marks the end of the temporal power of the Dalai Lamas.

On the 5th November the Dalai Lama sent again in great haste to consult me; he was in a terrible dilemma. He had been told that he should submit at once a Memorial to the Throne thanking it for the Imperial Edict of the 3rd. The terms in which he was to express his thanks had been dictated to him, and he was told that not a word could be added to the draft. He was ready to thank the Empress-Dowager for the honours conferred upon him, but he could not bring himself to thank her for having stated that he should not have the right to memorialize the Throne jointly with the Amban—the one privilege he had most desired. His messenger showed me a draft of what the Dalai Lama wished to include in his Memorial of thanks (I inclose copy of this rough draft), but the only satisfaction he had got was being told that, if he wished to submit these remarks to the Throne, he must put them in a special Memorial which should be handed to the Board of Dependencies for submission, but no promise was made that it would be submitted to the Empress-Dowager.

I said that I saw absolutely no way out of the difficulty; the Dalai Lama must submit to his Sovereign's commands. He had received many honours; his relations with India had been satisfactorily arranged by China; the interests of the Yellow Church were safe. He must take the bitter with the sweet, and the only suggestion I could make was that he should not delay too long complying with the wishes of the Chinese Government, as it might be misunderstood, and lead to further complications.

The messenger said the Dalai Lama realized the difficulty of his situation; he did not think there was any way out but compliance with the orders of the Government, but, as he had consulted me freely since we had first met, he had deemed it proper to submit also this matter to my judgment.

Yesterday one of the Abbots was here to see me; he said that the Memorial of thanks had not yet been sealed by the Dalai Lama, but I gathered that it would be in a day or so, and with that the whole question will be closed for the time being.

The Dalai Lama will probably start on his journey back to Lhasa about the end of this month, and reach his capital by May of next year. His pride has suffered terribly while here, and he leaves Peking with his dislike for the Chinese intensified. I fear that he will not co-operate with the Chinese in the difficult work they now propose to undertake of governing Thibet like a Chinese province, and that serious trouble may yet be in store for my friend the Dalai Lama ("T'ub-tän gyats'o"), if not for China.

It seems to me that it was a great pity that the British Government did not secure the right to station a Trade Officer at Lhasa when it was negotiating the Regulations for trade between India and Thibet. His presence there would have a restraining influence on the Chinese and Thibetans, and might otherwise assist in a peaceful change in the administration of the country, and prevent occurrences which may again endanger British interests in that country. Of course, Russia would have asked for the same privilege, but I can see no reason against her having it, and many are in favour of it, especially since Great Britain and Russia have already concluded an Agreement concerning Thibet. This, however, is none of my business, though it interests me greatly. The special interest to me is in that I have probably been a witness to the overthrow of the temporal power of the head of the Yellow Church, which, curiously enough, I heard twenty years ago predicted in Thibet, where it was commonly said that the thirteenth Dalai Lama would be the last, and my client is the thirteenth.

I have told both the British Minister and the Russian of the substance of all my conversations with the Dalai Lama's Councillors and of the conclusions I have reached concerning him and his pretensions. I think they both agree with me in my views.

This curious episode, this glimpse into pure Asiatic politics, seems to me of peculiar interest. I hope you will think likewise, and pardon the length of my narrative.

Always faithfully yours,
(Signed) W. W. ROCKHILL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 3.

Imperial Edict issued November 3, 1908, by Her Imperial Majesty the Empress-Dowager.

(Translation.)

THE Dalai Lama came to Peking last month and has had an audience. To-day he has led his followers in the presentation of birthday congratulations in a sincere spirit which we highly appreciate. We have determined to confer upon him an honorary title to show our appreciation.

The Dalai Lama formerly received the title of "Hai-t'ien-ta-shan-tsü-tsai-fo" ("The Great, Virtuous, Self-existent Buddha of the Western Heaven"), he shall now be called "Ch'eng-shun-tsan-hua-hsi-t'ian-ta-shan-tzü-tsai-fo" ("The Sincerely Obedient, Reincarnation-helping, Great, Virtuous, Self-existent Buddha of the West").

The Board of Dependencies is ordered to arrange without delay the ceremonies of investiture, and to memorialize on the same. An annual allowance of 10,000 taels is granted to the Dalai Lama, which will be paid quarterly from the Dependencies Treasury of Szechuan. After being invested with his title, the Dalai Lama shall immediately return to Thibet. All the officials on the route will give escort and protection. After his return to Thibet he must be reverentially submissive to the Regulations of the Sovereign State, and respectfully publish abroad the sincere purposes of the Chinese Government. He must induce the Western barbarians to obey the laws and practise virtue. Anything which he may have to communicate must be reported, as the Regulations require, to the Chinese Resident of Thibet, who will memorialize for him, and he must respectfully await the decision.

We hope that the frontiers may enjoy perpetual peace, and that the differences between the priests and the laity may be entirely removed, and that ingratitude may not be shown for the firm intention of the Court to support the "Yellow Sect," and tranquillize the frontier regions.

The Board of Dependencies is ordered to notify the Dalai Lama that he may reverently receive and respectfully obey.

Inclosure 3 in No. 3.

Draft of Paragraphs which the Dalai Lama wished to include in his Memorial to the Empress-Dowager thanking for honours conferred, but which the Li-fan Pu refused to allow him to do.

(Given to Mr. Rockhill by one of the Dalai Lama's Khampos in Chinese,
November 5, 1908.)

I, THE humble Dalai Lama, have reflected much on the protecting in peace of all Manchus, Mongols, Chinese, and Thibetans who respect the Buddhist faith. The large and small temples, where itinerant priests may rest and worship, all evidence the graciousness of the Empress-Dowager and Emperor, which is like the love of parents to children. It is my humble prayer that the Imperial Order may enable the ceremonies of the faith to be practised peaceably as of old.

Hereafter, if important matters come up relating to the Thibetan peoples, I, the humble Dalai, will memorialize myself, or, after consultation with the Chinese Resident of Thibet, will memorialize jointly with him, so keeping the border lands tranquil, and it is to be hoped that friendly relations may be maintained between Thibetans and

Chinese, that the former laws may be respectfully obeyed, and the real interests of Tibetans and Chinese may be furthered. That I, the humble Dalai, should have the right to memorialize is not that I may overstep the proper bounds or seize power, but otherwise, in arranging the affairs of the Tibetan people, there will be many difficulties. It is right that this should be fully reported, and I beg you to act in my behalf to memorialize clearly on this subject.

Since I, the humble Dalai Lama, came to Peking for audience, although I have received great favour, I earnestly beg that this power of memorializing may graciously be granted, in conformity with the old rules, and I ask that the civil and military officials of all the provinces may be duly notified of this.

[959]

No. 4.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of an inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 26th November, relative to rest-houses in Thibet.

India Office, January 7, 1909.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Government of India to Sir J. Jordan.

(Telegraphic.) P.

November 24, 1908.

REST-HOUSES in Thibet.

Your telegram dated the 2nd November.

The original cost of the bungalow at Chumbi was 1,780 rupees; that at Goutsu 2,420 rupees; Phari 2,909 rupees, and Champethang 2,070 rupees. Separate accounts were not kept for the remaining seven bungalows at Tuna, Dochen, Kala Tso, Samada, Kangma, Saugang, and Gyantse, but the total cost was 13,599 rupees. The aggregate original cost of eleven bungalows was therefore 22,778 rupees.

It is regretted that detailed figures are not now available.

[1018]

No. 5.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 9, 1909.)

(No. 533.)

Sir,

Peking, November 25, 1908.

M. F. A. LARSON, a Swedish missionary employed by the British and Foreign Bible Society, called to see me on the 19th instant bringing with him Hanta Wang, a Mongol Prince of the Tushetu Khanate, who is in attendance on the Dalai Lama. Both had just returned from Shanghai, where they had bought a number of expensive foreign articles, including an astronomical telescope for the Lama to take back with him to Thibet.

The Prince gave me to understand that he desired to obtain for the Lama some information regarding the Thibet Regulations, and the Anglo-Russian Convention relating to Thibet, of which his Holiness had heard, but of which he had been told nothing by the Chinese Government. The Lama was anxious to cultivate the most friendly relations with England, and was ready and willing when he returned to Lhasa to foster trade with India in every way, but there were many rumours as to the meaning of the Regulations and Convention, and not having seen the texts he was very much in the dark on the subject.

Hanta Wang was unable to explain why the Lama did not apply directly to the Chinese Government for these documents. It is well known that the intercourse between his Court and the Chinese officials deputed to attend upon him is not conducted on a very friendly footing, and, as I have learnt from various sources, including my United States' colleague, that his Holiness is really in some doubt as to the attitude of His

Majesty's Government towards him, I assured the Prince that so long as the Trade Regulations and the Treaties were faithfully observed, the Dalai's relations with India were certain to be harmonious and amicable. The terms of those documents, I said, were well known, and could be ascertained from the public prints.

M. Larson inquired where they could be found, and, as both the Thibet Regulations and the Anglo-Russian Convention have been published in the Chinese newspapers, I authorized Mr. Campbell to assist him in obtaining copies of the English text.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

[732]

No. 6.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 14, 1909.

WITH reference to your letter of the 23rd ultimo, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, a paraphrase of a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Peking,* on the subject of the message from His Majesty the King, which it is proposed to deliver to the Dalai Lama.

From this telegram it will be observed that the Dalai Lama has left Peking with all his people, and that Sir J. Jordan is therefore unable to deliver the King's message except through the Chinese Government, which appears hardly desirable. Under these circumstances, His Majesty's Minister suggests that the message be sent to Lhasa on the return of the Dalai Lama in May.

I am to inquire whether Viscount Morley concurs in this suggestion, and whether, if that is the case, the Government of India could have the message delivered by means of the ordinary channels.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[2946]

No. 7.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 23, 1909.)

(No. 545. Confidential.)

Sir,

Peking, December 2, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to your despatch No. 301 of the 27th June, that the Maharaj Kumar and Major O'Connor, C.I.E., who have been staying in the Legation for the past fortnight, left this morning for Wu T'ai Shan. Wu T'ai Shan is a sacred mountain about five days' journey from this, where the Dalai Lama resided for some time on his way to Peking, and it was by the Pontiff's advice that the pilgrimage there was undertaken by the Maharaj Kumar.

During his stay here the Maharaj Kumar has had considerable intercourse with the Dalai Lama and his emissaries, an account of which is contained in the inclosed Memorandum by Major O'Connor. As there was a possibility that such action on the part of a guest in the Legation might have given rise to suspicions of intrigue, I have made it clear to the Chinese Government and the Russian Minister that these visits were made by the Maharaj Kumar, who is himself a reincarnation of a Buddhist saint, merely as a matter of religious duty to the Spiritual Head of the Buddhist faith.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Memorandum respecting an Interview between the Dalai Lama and the Maharaj Kumar of Sikkim, held at the Yellow Temple, Peking, on November 25, 1908.

(Confidential.)

THE Maharaj Kumar proceeded to the Yellow Temple by special invitation of the Dalai Lama, dressed in the robes of a Lama. He arrived at about 2 p.m., and was admitted without any question or difficulty, and held a long conversation, lasting over two hours, quite alone with the Lama in a private room.

The Lama began by asking questions about the Kumar's travels in England, Europe, &c., and displayed great interest in hearing all his experiences. He then spoke of his own adventures and travels since leaving Lhasa in August 1904. He said that he had been much impressed by all that he had heard and seen. That he felt that he had benefited by his extended knowledge of the world; his views had widened, and many of his former prejudices had been removed. It was, he said, a great pity that so few Thibetan officials ever left their own country, for that nowadays, without some knowledge of the outside world, it is not possible for a country to advance or to prosper. There is no harm, he thinks, in the adoption of foreign manners and customs, provided people preserve their own religion. During his travels in Mongolia he had come very much in touch with the Buddhist population of that country, and had gained the affection and adherence of a large number of devotees. He hopes to strengthen this influence, and to extend it still further into other Buddhist countries in course of time.

He then spoke of his return to Lhasa. He seems confident regarding his influence over his own people in Thibet, but expressed himself as nervous regarding his relations with the Chinese. He quite realizes the necessity of working in harmony with China, but says that good relations depend very much upon the character and disposition of the Chinese Amban. The impression which the Maharaj Kumar gathered from the Lama's remarks in that connection was that the Lama does not like the Chinese, but understands his dependence upon them and the necessity of avoiding friction. He expressed himself then as entertaining friendly sentiments towards Great Britain, and as being desirous of dwelling on good terms with the Government of India. He is satisfied with existing Treaty provisions, which he intends to preserve. He understands that Great Britain entertains no designs of territorial or other expansion in Thibet.

He asked the Kumar about the Tashi Lama's visit to India, how the Lama was entertained, received, &c. The Maharaj Kumar informed him that the Tashi Lama had been very kindly received, and had visited Rawal Pindi and various Buddhist shrines, and had been received by the Prince of Wales and the Viceroy in Calcutta. And the Lama particularly wished to know whether the Tashi Lama had obtained any influence over Buddhists or Buddhist sympathizers in India.

He then said that he had been told that the English were the most honest among all the nations, and was that so? The Kumar replied in the affirmative, and added that they were the most powerful as well. The Lama referred to a report he had heard that the English language was the most universally spoken all over the world, which the Kumar confirmed. The Lama said that, on his return to Lhasa, he proposed to send some Thibetan students to India to study medical and other sciences, and he asked the Kumar to assist him in this.

The two then conversed at length on the subject of Budh Gaya and the Society which has been started with the object of recovering that shrine from the hands of the Hindus and of restoring it to the Buddhists. This project has the Lama's fullest sympathy and approval, and he acquiesced in the Kumar's request to act as Joint-President of the Society with the Tashi Lama (the Maharaj Kumar himself being the Vice-President). The Lama expects to meet the Tashi Lama at Nag-chu-ka on his way back to Lhasa, where he will further discuss the question, and he has promised to depute representatives to visit India later on to investigate the case.

He then expressed most friendly sentiments with regard to the Maharaj Kumar himself, asked him to correspond privately with him for the future, and to enlighten him as far as possible regarding foreign manners and customs. And he said that if the Kumar should ever visit Lhasa he would be glad to receive him.

He spoke of the Urga Lama (known to the Thibetans as the "Ka-ben Je-tsun Tam-ba"), said he was a man of indifferent character who did not follow the tenets of the Lamaistic doctrine.

He is uncertain by which route he is to return to Thibet, but mentioned that he would prefer to go by sea to India.

During his travels he had learnt to speak both Chinese and Mongol, and he says that he can now dispense with an interpreter for both these languages.

The Maharaj Kumar has read this over and finds it a substantially correct account of his interview with the Lama.

(Signed) W. F. O'CONNOR, Major.

Peking, November 26, 1908.

Note on the above Memorandum by Major O'Connor.

The impression which the Maharaj Kumar brought away with him from his interview with the Dalai Lama was that the Lama had learnt a great deal during his travels both of men and things. He realizes what mistakes he has made in the past, and is only anxious to avoid similar difficulties in the future. He seems to entertain no resentment or suspicion of us, and has lost his former anti-foreign bias, and (what is very satisfactory, in view of our recent policy in Thibet) he seems to harbour no jealous or angry feelings against the Tashi Lama. His acquaintance with the Maharaj Kumar of Sikkim, based on a mutual religious faith and his promised association with the Tashi Lama in a purely Buddhistic enterprise, would seem to tend towards the consolidation of permanent friendly relations of a satisfactory character on our Indo-Thibetan borders.

(Signed) W. F. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Memorandum respecting the Visit of the Maharaj Kumar of Sikkim to Peking.

(Confidential.)

ON arrival at Peking the Maharaj Kumar expressed a strong desire to visit the Dalai Lama. I spoke to the British Minister on the subject, who said that, as far as he was aware, there was no objection to this visit, provided it was made unofficially, and that the discussion of all political topics was avoided. Accordingly, on the 22nd November, I drove out with the Maharaj Kumar (who was dressed in his Buddhist robes) to the Yellow Temple. Here we sent in our cards to the Chinese official in charge of the Lama. This official received us, and on hearing that our visit to the Lama was quite a private affair, he arranged for our admission to the Lama's presence, he himself accompanying us throughout. The Lama received us kindly, and asked us to be seated, and we conversed with him on general topics for about ten minutes, when we took our leave. No political subject of any kind was broached, and the conversation was strictly confined to such civilities as the usual inquiries regarding health, travel, &c. Before leaving, the Maharaj Kumar spoke to the Lama regarding the question of the restoration of the shrine at Budh Gaya, concerning which the Maharaj Kumar is deeply interested. The Lama expressed his interest in the matter, and said he would be glad to hear further details if the Maharaj Kumar would visit him again in a few days' time.

Accordingly, on the 25th November, the Maharaj Kumar again proceeded to the Yellow Temple and had an interview with the Lama, as detailed on the attached Memorandum. Before starting I warned him to confine his remarks entirely to religious and general topics, and if the Lama should start any political question to express his ignorance with such matters. This course the Maharaj Kumar pursued, but he wishes to place on record the remarks which the Lama made on various matters during the course of these interviews.

I may add that these visits to the Dalai Lama were openly paid, without any attempt at concealment from the Chinese officials.

[4907]

No. 8.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 6, 1909.)

(No. 578.)

Sir,

Peking, December 23, 1908.

IN confirmation of my telegram No. 204, I have the honour to report that the Dalai Lama left this by train at 7 A.M. on the 21st instant. He went by railway as far as Chên-chou, whence he is to return to Kumbun by way of T'ung Kuan, Si-ngan Fu, and Lanchou. He will wait at Kumbun for the receipt of an Imperial letter, and go direct from there to Lhassa, which he hopes to reach towards the end of May.

The day before his departure the Dalai Lama sent two of his Councillors to this Legation to pay a visit of farewell on his behalf. In addition to some presents of incense and other articles for myself, they brought the accompanying "hata," which they specially begged should be transmitted through you to His Majesty the King-Emperor, with a message of respectful greetings from his Holiness.

The Councillors said that the Dalai Lama's visit to Peking had been a useful educative influence to himself and his advisers, and had resulted, they hoped, in the resumption of the time-honoured relations with China. It had also enabled them to ascertain the views of His Majesty's Government with regard to Thibet, and, after the assurances I had given them, they now went back thoroughly convinced that so long as they faithfully carried out the terms of the recent Convention they could look forward with confidence to the maintenance of friendly relations with His Majesty's Indian Government. This they considered one of the most valuable results of their journey.

The Dalai Lama had originally intended, they explained, to leave two or three of his Councillors to represent his interests here, but this proposal had for the time being been abandoned in deference to the views of the Chinese Government.

Dorjief was apparently afraid of the prospect of returning to Lhassa, and has decided to settle in St. Petersburg, where his ostensible object is to found some Buddhist monasteries. He proposes to remain, however, for some time in the trans-Baikal region before proceeding to his destination. He left Peking this morning.

I am sending a copy of this despatch to the Government of India.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

[3509]

No. 9.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 16.)

Sir,

Peking, January 7, 1909.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 206 of the 11th May, 1908, I have the honour to state that, not having received a reply to my despatch to the Government of India of the 4th May, 1908, I telegraphed, upon receipt of a further note from the Wai-wu Pu, to his Excellency the Viceroy, asking for a statement of the cost of the rest-houses between the Indian frontier and Gyantse.

Lord Minto replied that the cost amounted to a total of 22,778 rupees. I communicated this information to the Chinese Government, who sent me a draft for that amount in favour of the Government of India on the 30th ultimo. I have in turn transmitted the draft to Lord Minto.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

[4022]

No. 10.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 30.)

Sir,

India Office, January 28, 1909.

IN reply to your letter dated the 14th instant, as to the delivery of the message of His Majesty the King to the Dalai Lama, I am directed to say that Viscount Morley

concur in the suggestion that the delivery should be arranged through the Government of India.

A copy of a telegram sent to them is inclosed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Viscount Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, January 27, 1909.

SEE my telegram, dated the 8th instant, regarding the Dalai Lama.

Telegram from Sir J. Jordan states that it is not possible to communicate the King's message except through Chinese Government, which seems hardly desirable, as Lama has left Peking. If you have no observations, please arrange, on Lama's return to Lhasa in May, for message to be sent there by ordinary channels. Letter of the 8th instant from Political Secretary, India Office, inclosed telegram to Sir J. Jordan, dated the 4th instant, giving terms of message.

[4918]

No. 11.

Sir C. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey—(Received February 6.)

(No. 17. Confidential.)

Sir,

Stockholm, February 1, 1909.

I HAVE just had a private conversation with Dr. Sven Hedin, which I venture to think may be of interest. He spoke frankly and unreservedly, and I trust my report may be considered confidential. With regard to the expedition to Thibet, he considered it from beginning to end a very great mistake. In his opinion, we ought either to have made no expedition at all, or, having made one, we ought not to have withdrawn our troops. The result is that English prestige is practically non-existent in Thibet. With regard to the fear of Russian aggression he had a good deal to say. He thought that at one time Prince Ochtomsky had a considerable influence over the Czar, and persuaded him that it really was the wish of the Thibetans to place themselves and their holy places under the Russian Protectorate. But this never was really the case. The Thibetans hate and despise Russians and English alike: throughout Thibet China is supreme.

With regard to Dorjief he had a good deal to say. He could not believe that he was really intrusted with an official mission to the Czar, and he had expressed this opinion to the Emperor himself, who had replied, "Alors, on m'a trompé encore une fois!" On the other hand, he knew that Dorjief had again gone to St. Petersburg under somewhat mysterious circumstances. The Russian official at Harbin had told Dr. Sven Hedin, with some annoyance, that Dorjief had spoken to him through an interpreter, although he spoke Russian perfectly. What his business was in St. Petersburg Dr. Hedin did not know, but thought that he would make it out more important than it was. He repeated that, to the best of his belief, Russia had no influence in Thibet whatever. His escort of Russian Cossacks had been treated with indignity, and the mention of the Czar's friendship to him had been greeted with derision. On the other hand, the influence of China, which had always been great, was rapidly increasing, and he believed that China had a very cogent reason for insisting on her suzerainty. The whole of Mongolia was under the direct influence of the Lamas of Thibet. It would be really impossible to hold Mongolia without possessing control at Lhasa. And he believed that China would now obtain and exercise direct and immediate control over the whole of Thibet. He did not think that this would be dangerous to India, as the designs of China were not aggressive. She merely wished to maintain what had been hers for centuries.

He expressed the opinion that the Russian Emperor, who had accorded him a long audience, had no political designs with regard to Thibet, although he had a strong personal interest in the country and a great curiosity as to Dr. Hedin's explorations. There was nothing in his conversation which afforded grounds to suspect that Ochtomsky's influence was maintained.

He seemed to be rather sore at Lord Morley's refusal to allow him to enter Thibet.

from British territory, even before the conclusion of the Anglo-Russian Agreement. I explained to him the circumstances which made it quite impossible for the Home Government, in view of pending negotiations, to allow any expedition, whether British or foreign, to enter Thibet from India. He said he was very anxious to see Lord Morley if Lord Morley wished to see him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL SPRING-RICE.

[6705]

No. 12.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 19.)

Sir,

India Office, February 17, 1909.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India to inclose copy of a telegram from the Government of India, dated the 8th February, 1909, as to the desire of the Chinese Government to establish postal communication between China and Thibet. It will be seen that the Government of India have no objection to the extension in this case of the principle of the Postal Union to China, provided (1) that the Chinese Imperial Post Office execute a special Agreement for the establishment of direct postal exchange between India and Lhasa, if the Government of India consider such exchange desirable, and (2) that the exchange of mails between the Indian and Chinese Post Offices take place at Gyantse and Gartok, instead of on the frontier, until the efficiency of a Chinese postal service is demonstrated.

Viscount Morley would be glad to learn whether, in the opinion of Secretary Sir E. Grey, the reply which the Indian Government propose should be made by the Director-General of their Post Office to the Chinese proposal may be approved.

Any direct communication between India and Lhasa could not override the special provisions for communications to the Lhasa authorities contained in Article 5 of the Convention of the 7th September, 1904.*

As regards the proposal that, under agreement with the Chinese Government, the mails (other than those of the trade agents) should be conveyed by the Indian Post Office as far as the trade marts pending the establishment of an efficient Chinese service, Lord Morley is disposed to think that such an arrangement could not be regarded by the Russian Government as a contravention of the terms of Article 4 of the Anglo-Russian Arrangement relating to Thibet, under which the British and Russian Governments engage "neither to seek nor to obtain, whether for themselves or their subjects, any Concessions for railways, roads, telegraphs and mines, or other rights in Thibet."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Government of India to Viscount Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 8, 1909.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL of Post Office of India has received communication from Inspector-General of Chinese Imperial ports stating that Chinese Government desires to establish postal communication between Chinese system and Thibet, and proposing that intermediate carrying services of Indian Post Office should be employed for exchange of mails between China and Thibet. Liberty of transit for mails across India by services of Indian Post Office, which Article 4 of Principal Convention of Rome guarantees to Union countries, cannot be claimed by China, as she is not a party to the Postal Union; but as we have already entered into postal relations with China in the case of the exchange of mails across the Burma-Yünnan frontier, the extension in this case of the Union principle to China seems to us unobjectionable, provided Chinese Post Office agrees that, if we consider it desirable, direct postal exchange shall be established between India and Lhasa. It will be necessary to conclude a special Agreement with Chinese Imperial Post Office in order to effect the latter arrangement. Chinese object probably is to secure the withdrawal, as contemplated in Article 8 of the Trade Regulations of 1908, of our own postal system between India and the trade

* I.e., letters from British trade agents addressed to the Thibetan or Chinese authorities.

marts. They have inquired at what places on frontier exchange of mails should be effected. We consider that until efficiency of Chinese postal service is demonstrated, exchange of mails between Chinese Post Office and ours should take place at Gyantse and Gartok, as we maintain mail communications of our own up to those places. We propose to instruct Director-General to reply in this sense to the Chinese communication, if you approve.

[6709]

No. 13.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 19.)

Sir,

India Office, February 17, 1909.

WITH reference to previous correspondence regarding the Thibet Trade Regulations ending with my letter of the 16th December 1908, I am directed by Viscount Morley to inclose herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 10th February, 1909, as to interference by the Chinese Customs authorities with the import of Indian tea into Thibet.

The particular incident to which the Viceroy refers appears to be that related in the Gyantse Diary for the week ending the 26th September, 1908. As regards the levy of illegal dues on merchandize, attention is invited to the letters of the Political Agent in Sikkim, dated the 28th October and 4th November, 1908.

Article 1 of the Thibet Trade Regulations of 1908, as Sir E. Grey is aware, provides that "the Trade Regulations of 1893 shall remain in force in so far as they are not inconsistent with these Regulations." The position in regard to the import of tea is thus governed, as indicated in paragraph 5 of Mr. Wilton's letter of the 23rd April, 1908, by Article 4 of the Trade Regulations of 1893, under which "Indian tea may be imported into Thibet at a rate of duty not exceeding that at which Chinese tea is imported into England." I am to refer, in this connection, to the statement made to the Chinese and Thibetan Commissioners at Calcutta on the 16th February, 1908, as reported in the Viceroy's telegram of the same date.

In the circumstances, Lord Morley is disposed to agree with the Government of India that it is undesirable any longer to defer the consideration of the questions of tea and Customs duties. Should Sir E. Grey concur in this view, his Lordship would suggest that His Majesty's Minister at Peking might be consulted as to whether the present time is opportune for raising the subject with the Chinese Government.

In the event of negotiations being undertaken, Lord Morley desires to support the suggestion of the Government of India that Major O'Connor should be deputed to Peking as their Representative.

The Government of India have been instructed to repeat their telegram of the 10th February to Sir J. Jordan.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Government of India to Viscount Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 10, 1909.

CHINESE Customs officer at Yatung seized and sent back to India in September last four cases of Indian tea which had been taken into Thibet by Indian traders. Trade Agent was informed by Customs officer that latter had received instructions from Peking that, pending arrangement of Tariff, no Indian tea was to enter Thibet. Compensation is being claimed by the traders; and, as delay tells against trade, representatives of tea interests in India are pressing for matter to be taken up. We have, moreover, received representations regarding levy of dues on merchandize contrary to Regulations from Political Officer, Sikkim, and from Punjab Government. As stated in our despatch of the 23rd April last, the questions as to tea and customs were, at request of Mr. Chang, reserved for consideration by British and Chinese Governments.

Mr. Wilton, at the end of paragraph 5 of his letter of the 23rd April last, inclosed with our despatch of the 14th May, 1908, summed up the present position as maintained by us.

[6705]

No. 15*.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 34.)

(Telegraphic.) R.

Foreign Office, February 20, 1910.

THIBET.

I shall be glad of your views on telegram of 8th February from Government of India, which will be repeated to you.

It is, in our opinion, no longer desirable that consideration of these troublesome questions should be postponed. An issue has been forced by action of Chinese, and feeling in commercial quarters is strong. We recommend, therefore, that we should take up at Peking without delay the question of import of Indian tea, together with that of introduction of Tariff, and we would propose that Major O'Connor should be deputed to Peking as Government of India's Representative. A statement of the case would be prepared by us, and copies sent to you and to Sir J. Jordan simultaneously, if our proposal has your concurrence.

[6748]

No. 14.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 44.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, February 19, 1909.

THIBET. The Report, sent to the Secretary of State for India in the Government of India's telegram of the 7th February, to the effect that Chang Yin T'ang has been nominated Commissioner of International Affairs in Thibet, is stated by the Waiwupu to be without foundation. The appointment in question is not contemplated.

[6709]

No. 15.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 32.)

(Telegraphic.) R.

Foreign Office, February 19, 1909.

VICEROY'S telegram of the 10th instant.

Is present moment opportune for raising subject?

[7192]

No. 16.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 48.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, February 22, 1909.

THIBET.

I cannot say, in reply to your telegram No. 32 of the 19th instant, that the present is the best moment for approaching the Chinese on the tea and tariff questions. The facts adduced by the Indian Government would, however, seem to demand that a settlement of these points be no longer postponed, and with your approval and instructions I am ready to start the necessary negotiations as soon as I shall have received the statement of the case promised by the Indian Government in their telegram of the 10th February to the Secretary of State.

I am scarcely of opinion that the negotiations would be rendered easier by the presence of Major O'Connor in Peking.

[7644]

No. 17.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 51.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, February 24, 1909.

THIBET Postal Service.

The proposed answer of the Indian Government to the Chinese suggestion regarding postal communication with Thibet, on which your telegram No. 34 of the 20th instant requests my views, seems to me generally suitable.

It is possible, however, that objection may be taken by the Chinese to the places named for the exchange of mails. It may be urged against Gyantse and Gartok that the courier service at present in operation exists merely for the purpose of conveying the British trade agents' mails between those places and India, cannot be claimed by us as a regular means of transmitting ordinary postal matter, and is in any case liable to be abolished as soon as the Chinese postal service has been brought to a state of efficiency.

[7644]

No. 18.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 5, 1909.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th ultimo, on the subject of the arrangements to be made to establish postal communication between China and Thibet via India.

In reply to a request for his views, His Majesty's Minister at Peking has sent the telegram copy of which is inclosed.*

You will perceive that Sir J. Jordan concurs generally in the reply which the Government of India proposes should be returned to the Inspector-General of Chinese Imperial Posts, but anticipates the possibility of objection being taken to the exchange of mails taking place at Gyantse and Gartok.

Sir E. Grey agrees with the opinion expressed by Sir J. Jordan, and he will be glad to learn what answer is eventually returned to the Chinese Post Office.

I am to add that it may be desirable to communicate to the Russian Government any arrangement that may ultimately be arrived at.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[9772]

No. 19.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 156.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, March 10, 1909.

I OBSERVED to M. Isvolsky this morning that I had noticed in the papers that M. Dorjief had had an audience of the Emperor, and had been accompanied by a Thibetan deputation. His Excellency replied that he had been annoyed by the manner in which M. Dorjief's audience had been represented in the newspapers, who had given a wrong interpretation to it.

In the first place M. Dorjief, as I knew, had not come from Thibet, but from Peking; and in the second place he had not presented to the Emperor a Thibetan deputation. He had had the honour of an audience for the purpose of soliciting His Majesty's sanction to the erection of a Buddhist temple in St. Petersburg as there was a considerable number of Buddhists resident in the Capital. There was absolutely nothing political in the arrival of M. Dorjief here, and the object of his visit was the simple and natural one which he had mentioned. He did not doubt that I was aware that the attitude of the Russian Legation at Peking during the visit of the Dalai Lama had been most correct and reserved.

I told M. Isvolsky that I had no suspicions of any kind, and that I only mentioned the audience of M. Dorjief as an interesting incident.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[10543]

No. 20.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 19.)

Sir,

India Office, March 18, 1909.

IN continuation of my letter of the 28th January last as to the delivery of a message from His Majesty the King-Emperor to the Dalai Lama, I am directed to inclose herewith copy of a telegram from the Government of India inquiring whether a copy of the Viceroy's letter conveying His Majesty's message to the Lama should be communicated to the Chinese Amban at Lhasa.

Viscount Morley would be glad to be favoured with the observations of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on the subject. He agrees with the Government of India that the case is not one to which Article 3 of the Trade Regulations of 1908 was intended to apply; but the possibility has to be contemplated that the

Thibetan Agent at Gyantse, if the letter is handed to him for transmission to Lhasa, under Article 5 of the Lhasa Convention of 1904, may, under instructions from the local Chinese officials, refuse to undertake its delivery unless furnished at the same time with a statement of its purport for communication to the Amban. In that case it would be difficult to insist effectively on the transmission of the letter without giving some explanation of the nature of its contents.

An alternative course, if the Government of India's objection to notifying to the Amban the purport of the Viceroy's letter is upheld, would be for His Majesty's Minister at Peking to inform the Chinese Government of the intention of His Majesty's Government to communicate with the Dalai Lama through the Viceroy, and to request that instructions may be given for the safe delivery of the letter. The undesirability of communicating His Majesty's message through the Chinese Government was mentioned in Sir J. Jordan's telegram No. 12 dated the 6th January, 1909.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Government of India to Viscount Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 7, 1909.

YOUR telegram of 27th January, 1909.

View is expressed by Political Officer, Sikkim, that it would be advisable that copy of Viceroy's letter conveying King's message to Dalai Lama should be communicated to Amban at Lhasa, in order to avoid offending Chinese susceptibility. A precedent would be created by this, and a claim will probably be based thereon that Chinese authorities should be furnished with copies of all correspondence. This position should not, in our opinion, be accepted. Article 3 of the Trade Regulations of 1908 does not govern the case. We should be glad of your instructions, as a question of policy is involved.

[10646]

No. 21.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 46.)

Sir,

Peking, February 1, 1909.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 124 of the 4th March last and my despatch No. 307 of the 7th July, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of an extract of a letter addressed to His Majesty's Consul-General at Hankow by Mr. French Ridley, of the China Inland Mission at Hsi-ning, in Kansu, containing information as to the movements of Colonel Kozloff's expedition in the Kokonor region.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Mr. Ridley to Consul-General Fraser.

(Extract.)

Sining, Kansu, December 22, 1908.

WE have been favoured with a visit from a Russian expedition, with Colonel Kozloff, the intrepid explorer, as its chief. They were in the city here a good while, and we saw a good deal of them. They went to Kueiteh, a city 60 miles south-west from here, south of the Yellow River. He (Colonel) has paid us a pop visit since then, as he came over to see the Chebsam Fuh-ie (Buddha), and we enjoyed his company in our lonely home, he being our honoured guest for four days. The Colonel is well acquainted with many of the chief living Buddhas ("hoh Fuh-ie") in this district, and has got some valuable presents from them for the museum. The visit of two members of the expedition in a canvas boat to the isle in the Lake Koko (Kokonor) caused a deal of excitement among the Mongolians and Chinese, as such a

thing has never been done before, and was a very daring piece of adventure, for oft the lake is very rough.

The Colonel saw the Dalai Lama twenty-five times at Urga, but did not succeed in getting a photo.

He was the first European to have an interview. Mr. Brooke (Huddersfield) and I were the next, then came Dr. Tafel. These two interviews were at Kumbun. Then W. W. Rockhill at Wu-t'ai-shan.

The Russian expedition remains at Kueiteh till January. Their movements seem directed from Peking, and I am inclined to think that they hoped to see the Dalai Lama again at Kumbun before they proceeded to the large monastery at La-brang and on to Sung-pan-ting, then back to Lanchau and Urga, but up to the present time there is no news of the Dalai Lama's coming.

The expedition has several Cossacks and Buriat Mongols attached to it, and their Cossack interpreter speaks Chinese and Mongolian, so they are not hampered by the officials tampering with their men, as most expeditions are. Last week another Russian gentleman arrived here, but I was away at the time, so did not see him, but he was a member of another expedition.

I do not know if these matters are interesting to you or not, but I thought they might be.

[12075]

No. 22.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 200.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, March 26, 1909.

THE "Bourse Gazette" published in its issue of to-day a statement that a special Commission is starting for Thibet by order of the Department for Spiritual Affairs. The Commission, in addition to two members of the above-named Department, would, it was said, also consist of representatives from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. It is stated that the object of the Mission is to study the religious and general life of the Lamas and their general organization, &c.

I inquired of M. Isvolsky this morning whether there was any truth in this statement. His Excellency said that he had heard nothing at all about such a Mission, except what had appeared in the paper which I had mentioned; that he considered that it was a pure invention, but that he had made inquiries of the competent Department. I observed that such a Mission would not come within the terms of the Thibet Convention.

Since my conversation a semi-official communiqué has appeared, stating that the Russian Government have not proposed, and do not propose, to send such a Mission to Thibet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[12145]

No. 23.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 30.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 24th instant, relative to postal communication between China and Thibet.

India Office, March 29, 1909.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Viscount Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 24, 1909.

SEE my telegram as to China-Thibet postal communication dated the 22nd ultimo. Reference is invited to telegram of the 24th ultimo from His Majesty's Minister at

Peking. View expressed in latter telegram as to reply to Chinese Post Office has the concurrence of His Majesty's Government. I should be glad to have, by mail, a copy of reply eventually sent; copy should also be sent to Sir J. Jordan. It may be necessary to inform Russian Government of any arrangements that may be concluded.

[10543]

No. 24.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 31, 1909.

I LAID before Secretary Sir Edward Grey your letter of the 18th instant inclosing a telegram from the Government of India in regard to the means of communicating the message from the King to the Dalai Lama at Lhasa in acknowledgment of the "hatas," or scarves, left on his behalf at the British Legation at Peking for transmission to His Majesty, which, as the Secretary of State for India is aware, are understood to correspond to visiting cards in Europe.

Sir Edward Grey observes that the Viceroy fears that if a copy of his letter conveying His Majesty's message were communicated to the Chinese Ambassador at Lhasa such a course would create a precedent, and might hereafter be used as the basis for a claim that copies of all correspondence should be sent to the Chinese authorities.

Sir Edward Grey agrees that such an undesirable precedent should, if possible, be avoided, and is disposed to think that the objections of the Government of India would not apply to letting the Amban at Lhasa know, either verbally or in writing, but without giving him a copy, that the King's communication is merely an acknowledgment of the "hatas," with an expression of His Majesty's good-will.

I am accordingly to propose, for the concurrence of Viscount Morley, that His Majesty's Minister at Peking should, as suggested in the final paragraph of your letter under reply, be instructed to inform the Chinese Government of the intention of His Majesty's Government to transmit this acknowledgment to the Dalai Lama through the Viceroy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[12376]

No. 25.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 1.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 11th February, relative to the trade through Kulu with Thibet.

India Office, March 31, 1909.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Government of the Punjab to Government of India.

Sir,

Lahore, December 9, 1908.

DURING his recent tour through Kulu the Lieutenant-Governor took the opportunity of making certain local inquiries into the conditions and prospects of trade through Kulu with Thibet. These inquiries showed that this trade route was an easy one throughout its length, except where it crosses the Baralacha and Longlacha Passes. Proof of this was found in a number of ponies, which were met at the foot of the Rohtang Pass, carrying wool from Puga. These had stood the journey well. The Longlacha Pass has recently been much improved by the Kashmir Durbar.

2. It was, moreover, ascertained that the Thibetans have been making efforts to levy duty of 10 per cent. at Puga, Demchok, and Tashigong, or 30 per cent. in all on

goods going to Gartok. Under the Treaty of the 28th April, 1908, the Trade Regulations of 1893 remain in force, and under these Regulations until a Tariff has been fixed by mutual consent the Thibetans are not entitled to levy any such duty, and the point was admitted by the Tsarong Shape during the recent negotiations regarding the Thibet Trade Regulations. The Lieutenant-Governor desires me to bring this matter to the notice of the Government of India, and to suggest that Thakar Jai Chand should be sent from Gartok to Tashigong next spring to insure that traders are not hampered by new and illegal imposts.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

E. D. MACLAGAN,,

Chief Secretary.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

British Trade Agent at Gartok to Government of India.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

Gartok, November 23, 1908.

THIS year the servants of the Garpons at Tashigong have forced Lahaul traders to pay more duty than before. Formerly they used to levy duty at the rate of 10 per cent. on merchandise only, and nothing was levied on the provisions, &c., which the merchants brought for their own use. This year they have levied 10 per cent. on every thing, including even the tobacco, which the traders brought for their personal use. I brought the matter to the notice of the Garpons, but they have paid no heed to it. I report this for your information.

Usual conclusion.

[12521]

No. 26.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 2.)

Sir,

India Office, April 1, 1909.

IN reply to your letter dated the 22nd February last, as to opening negotiations with the Chinese Government for settling the questions of the import of tea and the Tariff in Thibet, I am directed to say that Viscount Morley would propose, subject to Sir E. Grey's concurrence, that instructions should be sent to His Majesty's Minister at Peking to bring these matters to the notice of the Chinese Government.

Copy of a telegram addressed to the Government of India is inclosed.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Viscount Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, March 30, 1909.

PLEASE refer to your telegram of the 19th March.

It is proposed to instruct Sir J. Jordan to bring to notice of Chinese Government subject of Thibet tea duty and Tariff. As proposed in your telegram of the 10th February, copies of statement of case should be furnished to Sir J. Jordan and myself. In view of opinion expressed in telegram of the 22nd ultimo from His Majesty's Minister at Peking, it is not desirable to press deputation of Major O'Connor.

[12521]

No. 27]

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 68.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, April 3, 1909.

THIBET Trade Regulations, tea and customs duties.

Your telegram No. 48 of the 22nd February last.

Government of India have been informed that O'Connor's deputation should not be pressed; they will forward a statement to you, and I authorize you to bring the matter to the notice of the Chinese Government when the statement has been received.

[15289]

No. 28.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 23.)

Sir,

India Office, April 22, 1909.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 31st ultimo, as to the mode of communicating a message from the King to the Dalai Lama in acknowledgment of the "hatas" left by his Holiness at Peking Legation for transmission to His Majesty.

In view of the practical difficulties of transmitting the Viceroy's letter, the inexpediency of making His Majesty's gracious message an occasion of controversy, and the fact that the Dalai Lama's presents were of a conventional character, bearing no special political significance, Viscount Morley is of opinion, subject to the concurrence of Sir E. Grey, that no further steps need be taken in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

A. GODLEY.

[17634]

No. 29.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 5th May, relative to the King's message to the Dalai Lama.

India Office, May 8, 1909.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Viscount Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, May 5, 1909.

MESSAGE to Dalai Lama from His Majesty the King. See your telegram dated the 7th March.

After consultation with the Foreign Office, it has been decided that no further action should be taken. Papers are being sent with Secretary's weekly letter.

[18180]

No. 30.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 14.)

Sir,

India Office, May 12, 1909.

I AM directed by Viscount Morley to inclose herewith copy of a letter from the Government of India as to the publication of anti-British articles in a Thibetan newspaper edited by the Chinese Amban at Lhasa.

[1659]

G

Lord Morley shares the views of the Government of India as to the consequences that may ensue from the dissemination of such articles among the ignorant Thibetans. He would suggest, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that His Majesty's Minister at Peking might be instructed to make representations to the Chinese Government on the subject of the unfriendly attitude of the Amban towards the British Government and its Agents at the trade marts.

Copies of the original Thibetan newspapers are inclosed for transmission to Sir J. Jordan if it is thought necessary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

Government of India to Viscount Morley.

(Secret.)
My Lord,

Simla, April 15, 1909.

IN continuation of our Secret despatch, dated the 1st October, 1908, we have the honour to forward, for your Lordship's consideration, the accompanying copy of a letter from our Political Officer in Sikkim regarding certain articles which have appeared in a newspaper which is edited and published by the Chinese Amban at Lhasa. The original newspapers containing the Articles referred to, which bear numbers corresponding to those of the translations, are also inclosed.

2. A grave situation is produced, a situation that may at any moment become perilous to the lives of our officers living in isolation and with little protection among a population notoriously ignorant and inflammable, when high Chinese officials directly associate themselves with the publication and dissemination of articles calculated to stir up feelings of hostility towards the British Government. We have already drawn attention to the unfriendly attitude of the Chinese officials in Thibet, and we trust that His Majesty's Minister at Peking may be instructed to make a strong representation to the Chinese Government on the subject at a very early date.

We have, &c.
(Signed) H. ADAMSON.
J. O. MILLER.
W. L. HARVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

Mr. Bell to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Gangtok, February 24/25, 1909.

WITH reference to the correspondence ending with my letter dated the 23rd January, 1909, regarding the newspaper published at Lhasa, I have the honour to submit herewith copy of a letter from Lieutenant Bailey forwarding extracts from the newspaper in question. The newspaper is published by the Chinese officials in Lhasa and is circulated through Thibet.

2. It might be well if a representation were made to the Government of China regarding the hostile tone of this Chinese official publication, citing as an instance Extract 3, which contains the words, "There are in Thibet some wicked, aggressive foreigners, with whom intercourse has to be maintained." We have, I think, the right to object to the Chinese attempting to stir up feelings of hostility against us by continual abuse of this kind, circulated among the ignorant people of Thibet.

Inclosure 3 in No. 30.

Lieutenant Bailey to Mr. Bell.

(Confidential.)

February 11, 1909.

WITH reference to letter dated the 16th January, 1909, from the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department to you, forwarded

with your letter, dated the 23rd January, 1909, I have the honour to inclose translations of the following extracts from the Lhasa newspaper :—

- (a.) Extract 1, August 1908.
- (b.) Extract 2, August 1908.
- (c.) Extract 3, September 1908.
- (d.) Extract 4, September 1908.
- (e.) Extract 5, October 1908.

“Foreign” may be taken as a synonym for “British” in the translations.

Inclosure 4 in No. 30.

Translation of Extracts from the Lhasa Newspaper.

Extract 1.

DON'T be afraid of Amban Chao and his soldiers. They are not intended to do harm to Thibetans but to other people. If you consider you will remember how you felt ashamed when the foreign soldiers arrived in Lhasa and oppressed you with much tyranny. We must all strengthen ourselves on this account, otherwise our religion will be destroyed in 100 or perhaps 1,000 years.

Extract 2.

In the west the foreign frontier is very close. In this direction also is Nepal. For a long time the Gurkhas have been endeavouring to perfect themselves in war in order that the foreigners may not think them a negligible nation. It will be well if you make friends with these people. Quickly make friends and become as one and resist the foreigners, who will not be able to aggress. By not having done this before you made a great mistake.

Extract 3.

Ke-nga Lonchen will open English schools and will give notice in detail to summon students. There are in Thibet some wicked aggressive foreigners with whom intercourse has to be maintained. For the purpose of doing various kinds of work, men who know English well are required to carry out the work.

Extract 4.

In a previous issue of this paper it was stated that the Nepalese and Thibetans should make friends in order that the foreigners may not aggress. You, Thibetans, do not listen to this advice. You think in your ignorance that you being Thibetans will prosper better by being isolated. Therefore I will again speak on this subject. Bhutan is also a neighbouring State. Bhutan is to the south of Thibet. It is twelve stages from Lhasa. Thibet and Bhutan are as inseparable as the cheek from the teeth. Good produce also comes from Bhutan, namely bamboo, wood, copper, and iron, all of which are wanted in Thibet. Also rice for eating comes from that country. For this reason Thibetans require many of the products of Bhutan. It will even be more advantageous for you to make friends with Bhutan than for you to make friends with Nepal. If you live like men in one house you will derive much advantage. You, Thibetans, are not clever; many Bhutanese come to Thibet as pilgrims, they make presents; but Thibetans never go to Bhutan, nor inquire about the country.

In addition, the Bhutanese have the same religion as the Thibetans. For this reason you ought to help them. Many years ago they had a war with the British. At this time they asked you for help, but you refused to give it. Because you did not give this help, much land was taken from them and many of them were killed. At this they were very annoyed. The Chinese Emperor gave them assistance and the Emperor Yu Trin ordered the Bhutanese to send him presents. If in future the Bhutanese require any help the Lhasa Amban will grant it. The Amban has also often sent men to settle disputes there. For this reason the Bhutanese think that the Chinese are very good and on their frontiers they gained strength, and for this reason they sent a letter to the Emperor of China, who sent them a seal, and

now Bhutanese will always think well of the Emperor of China. If you don't understand the reason why the Emperor of China was kind to the Bhutanese I will tell you. It was on account of you Thibetans. Bhutan is like a wall of Thibet. This you Thibetans don't understand. The Emperor thinks that the Gurkhas, Bhutanese, and Thibetans should live like three men in one house. If you continue to wish to be isolated as before you will come to grief.

Extract 5.

When opium and tobacco first came to China the foreigners introduced them. The merchants said that it was an excellent medicine good for all diseases. Many people in China believed that it was really a good medicine. Eventually much harm was done to many people in China by this. At first in time of sickness opium gives relief, but afterwards destroys people.

[18180]

No. 31.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 150.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 24, 1909.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a letter from the India Office,* relative to the publication of anti-British articles in a Thibetan newspaper edited by the Chinese Amban at Lhassa.

I share the views of Lord Morley and of the Government of India as to the dangerous consequences which may ensue from the dissemination of such articles, and I shall be glad if you will make representations to the Chinese Government on the subject of the unfriendly attitude of the Amban towards His Majesty's Government and their Agents at the trade marts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[18180]

No. 32.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 25, 1909.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, relative to the publication of anti-British articles in a Thibetan newspaper edited by the Chinese Amban at Lhassa.

I am to state, in reply, that Sir E. Grey shares Viscount Morley's views as to the dangerous consequences which may arise from the dissemination of such articles among the Thibetans, and that His Majesty's Minister at Peking will be instructed to make representations to the Chinese Government on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[24078]

No. 33.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 173.)

Sir,

Peking, May 12, 1909.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 46 of the 1st February last, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's consul-general at Hankow enclosing copy of a further letter from Mr. French Ridley respecting the movements of the Russian expedition under the direction of Colonel Kozloff.

Mr. Ridley would seem to be mistaken as to the whereabouts of Dorjjeff, whose plans for the future I mentioned in my despatch No. 578 of the 23rd December last. I need hardly point out that the views of a political nature to which he gives expression in the last paragraph of his letter are entirely his own.

I have, &c.
J. N. JORDAN.

* No. 30.

Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

Consul-General Fraser to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 31.)

Sir,

Hankow, April 20, 1909.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 10 of the 25th January last, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a further letter which I have received from a British missionary at Hsi-ning, in Kansu, concerning the movements of Russian explorers in the neighbourhood of that province.

I have, &c.

E. H. FRASER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 33.

Rev. H. F. Ridley to Consul-General Fraser.

Dear Sir,

Hsi-ning, Kansu, March 23, 1909.

AT your request I send you a few more particulars respecting the Russian expedition.

When they left here their route was Kweiteh, south-west of Hsi-ning, then to Labrang, another large lamasery, then on to Sung-pan-ting, then back to Lanchau, Ala-Shan, and Urga. Their route, however, has not been followed, for at Labrang they received instructions from the Geographical Society [?] in Russia not to proceed to Sung-pan-ting, but to return to Mongolia to unearth some more treasures in the buried city of Harakuto or Heh-chen, which lies north-north-east from Su-chow, and which is supposed to have been the capital of some Thibetan king, who refused to submit to the then reigning Emperor of China (probably Hung-wu of Ming dynasty), and the city was surrounded and destroyed, and since then has been gradually buried under the drifting sands. Last year the expedition unearthed several manuscripts, vessels, small idols, &c., and sent them to Russia for examination; they apparently have proved of value. The expedition divided up at Labrang, Captain Nabalkoff going farther south in the province, and returning via Ninghsia to Urga, M. Cherterken, botanist, by way of Hocheo to Lanchau, Colonel Kozloff back to Siün-hua-ting, Pa-ien-rong, and Kumbum, at which latter place he stayed about ten days, having interviews with the Dalai Lama, then came on here again, stayed for two days, and is now on his way to Lanchau, Ala-Shan, then to the buried city. The hidden secrets unearthed from the heart of the Dalai Lama no doubt will be considered a valuable discovery in Russia, but will not be published, I'm afraid, for the benefit of the general public, like their other discoveries.

There is no doubt about it that the colonel is on very friendly terms with the Dalai Lama, and also with many of the chief Buddhas of this part of Asia. Speaking Mongolian himself, as well as his followers, they make their way where other expeditions would fail. They are entirely independent of the Chinese officials. In visiting lamaseries the colonel will probably only take two men with him, leaving the rest at some centre. One cannot fail to see that the Russians are in a much more advantageous position for exploring these regions of Central Asia than other Europeans.

The Dalai Lama and the Chief Abbot of Kumbum are at loggerheads, and have no intercourse.

I find out that Nga-wa-kampa (Dorjief) is not with the Dalai Lama. I was misinformed. Whom I saw was another Minister called Im-ki Kampa. Dorjief visited the Dalai Lama at Wu-t'ai-shan, then returned to Urga. The Dalai Lama does not know when he will return, as he is waiting orders from Peking.

I'm very much afraid there is trouble in store for China in Thibet. The proud, haughty spirit of the Thibetans is marked, and, with the return of their uncrowned King, the Ambans at Lhassa will have no easy nest. And what about our own country and Thibet? A grave mistake was made when the Government undid so much of the splendid work of Lieutenant-Colonel Younghusband, and it is a question if we shall ever again have the prestige our country had obtained, and, as the years roll on, the mistake of the Government is being confirmed in various ways.

Believe me, &c.

H. FRENCH RIDLEY.

[24827]

No. 34.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 2.)

Sir,

India Office, June 30, 1909.

I AM directed to enclose copy of a Secret letter from the Government of India, dated the 3rd instant, as to the relations between the Thibetan Government and the Tashi Lama. It appears from reports furnished by the political agent in Sikkim, that the Lhasa Government have recently sent an officer to Shigatse to make enquiries concerning the visit of the Tashi Lama to Calcutta in the winter of 1906-7 and his present relations with the British Government, and that an oral message has been received from the Lama stating that he apprehends ill-treatment when the Dalai Lama returns to Lhasa. The Government of India ask, in view of the indications that the Chinese and Thibetan authorities may adopt a hostile attitude towards the Tashi Lama, that His Majesty's Minister at Peking may be instructed to secure for him the friendly offices of the Chinese Government.

His Majesty's Government are bound by the Peking Convention not to interfere in the administration of Thibet, and it is their policy to place the widest interpretation on this undertaking. There is thus a certain difficulty in approaching the Chinese Government on reports received from our officers as to what is taking place in Shigatse. Lord Morley would propose, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that Sir J. Jordan might be instructed to remind the Wai-wu Pu, in connection with the impending arrival of the Dalai Lama at Lhasa, of the assurances contained in their memorandum of the 27th February, 1907,* that there was "no intention of punishing the Tashi Lama for his visit to India," and to indicate how important it appears in the eyes of His Majesty's Government that no question should now rise in consequence of the visit.

The Government of India have been requested to forward copy of their letter to His Majesty's Minister at Peking.

I am, &c.
A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

Government of India to Viscount Morley.

My Lord,

Simla, June 3, 1909.

WE have the honour to forward copies of letters from our political officer in Sikkim on the subject of the relations between the Dalai Lama and the Tashi Lama.

2. Your Lordship will remember that, during his visit to Calcutta in 1906, the Tashi Lama expressed some anxiety as to the possible effects of his action on his relations with China and Lhasa, and asked for assurances of support in the event of their adopting a hostile attitude. In reply, his Excellency the Viceroy informed the Tashi Lama that the Chinese Government had raised no objections to his visit so long as business matters were not discussed, and expressed the conviction that, should the necessity arise, our good offices would be exerted with China on his behalf. This reply was approved in your Lordship's telegram, dated the 5th February, 1906.

3. The subsequent action of the Chinese authorities showed that the Tashi Lama's apprehensions were not ill-founded, and, with a view to affording the Lama protection from possible injury provoked by his friendly attitude to us, His Majesty's Government deemed it advisable, on the 9th February, 1907, to instruct His Majesty's Minister at Peking to represent to the Chinese Government that, as the visit of the Lama to Calcutta was purely a ceremonial one to meet His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, any action against him which punished him for that visit, as if it had been an offence, would not be consistent with the courteous and cordial relations between His Majesty's Government and China. In reply, the Wai-wu Pu assured His Majesty's Government that there was no intention of punishing the Lama for his visit to India.

4. The communication made to the Maharaj Kumar of Sikkim, and the information now furnished by Mr. Bell, indicate that the Chinese and Thibetan authorities may adopt a hostile attitude towards the Tashi Lama. In view of our engagements with China and Russia, we cannot interfere directly in order to protect the Tashi Lama from the consequences of his friendliness towards us, but we trust that, in the circum-

* Enclosed with Sir J. Jordan's despatch No. 105, March 9, 1907.

stances, His Majesty's Minister at Peking may be instructed to secure for him the friendly offices of the Chinese Government.

We have, &c.

MINTO.

KITCHENER.

H. ADAMSON.

J. O. MILLER.

W. L. HARVEY.

G. F. WILSON.

S. P. SINHA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 34.

Mr. Bell to the Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Gangtok, April 1, 1909.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Tashi Lama has sent a secret message to the Maharaj Kumar of Sikkim stating that he apprehends ill-treatment from the Lhasa Government when the Dalai Lama returns to Lhasa. The message was sent verbally, as he is afraid to put anything into writing. The Maharaj Kumar replied that he would bear the Lama's message in mind.

2. The Tashi Lama has had this fear in his mind ever since his visit to India in 1905-6. He mentioned his fear to his Excellency the Viceroy at the interview in Calcutta on the 10th January, 1906, and again to me during my interview with him in Shigatse in November 1906. At his interview with the Dalai Lama at Peking, the Maharaj Kumar appears to have asked the Dalai Lama not to entertain suspicions against the Tashi Lama for visiting India, saying that the latter was invited by the Government of India and had no option but to accept. The Kumar represented the matter in this light to the Dalai Lama with the object of allaying the latter's suspicions against the Tashi Lama.

3. There is no doubt that ever since his visit to India the Tashi Lama has been haunted by a dread as to its consequences.

Inclosure 3 in No. 34.

Mr. Bell to the Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Gangtok, May 8, 1909.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith a note showing information received by me recently from an agent who has visited Lhasa and Shigatse. He had good facilities for obtaining information, which may therefore be regarded as trustworthy.

Inclosure 4 in No. 34.

Note communicated by Mr. Bell respecting Lhasa and Shigatse.

LAST December a grand secretary (Trung-yik Chem-po), by name Kunsang, from the Lhasa Government, arrived at Shigatse to ask the Tashi Lama why he went to India, and whether he has come to any secret understanding with the Government of India. A reply was given that Captain O'Connor threatened the Tashi Lama that it would fare ill with him unless he accepted the Government of India's invitation to visit India; that he (the Tashi Lama) did not dare offend the Government of India and risk the fate with which he was threatened if he refused the invitation, and therefore he went, but that there is no secret arrangement between him and the Government of India. The envoy also told the Tashi Lama that the Bhutanese had similarly become on friendly terms with the British, and that therefore a Chinese official had visited Bhutan; that this official had been well received, being provided with free transport and supplies as befitted the representative of the suzerain Power, and had been assured by the Paro Penlop* that there is nothing beyond mere friendship with

* He is the practical ruler of Western Bhutan, but has acknowledged the over-lordship of the Maharaja of Bhutan.

the Government of India; that Bhutan has not in any way changed her political position. Was the position in Tashilhunpo similar? The Tashi Lama replied in the affirmative.

2. The above conversations are known only to a few of the most trusted Shigatse officials, and these are much perturbed, as this is the second time that they have been questioned about the Tashi Lama's visit to India, and this time by the direct order of the Dalai Lama himself.

3. The Lhasa envoy further enquired whether the Tashi Lama would go to meet the Dalai Lama on his return to Lhasa in accordance with Thibetan custom. The Tashi Lama replied that he would do so if the Thibetan Government would inform him later on when the Dalai Lama was to arrive. The custom is for the Tashi Lama to go to Lhasa and about seven days' journey beyond it.

[24827]

No. 35.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 193.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 7, 1909.

YOU will have received direct from Simla a copy of a letter dated the 3rd ultimo,* which has been addressed by the Government of India to Viscount Morley, respecting the relations between the Thibetan Government and the Tashi Lama, from which it appears that the Lhasa Government have recently sent an officer to Shigatse to make enquiries concerning the visit of the lama to Calcutta in the winter of 1906-7 and his present relations with His Majesty's Government, and that an oral message has been received from him stating that he apprehends ill-treatment when the Dalai Lama returns to Lhasa. The Government of India ask, in view of the indications that the Chinese and Thibetan authorities may adopt a hostile attitude towards the lama, that you may be requested to secure for him the friendly offices of the Chinese Government.

If you have reason to apprehend that he will be ill-treated on the Dalai Lama's return to Thibet, you should remind the Wai-wu Pu of the assurances contained in their memorandum of the 27th February, 1907, that no harm would come to the Tashi Lama on account of his visit to India.

I am, &c.

E. GREY.

[26162]

No. 36.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 220.)

Sir,

Peking, June 22, 1909.

ON receipt of your despatch No. 150 of the 24th ultimo I did not fail to draw the attention of the Chinese Government to the publication of anti-British articles in a Thibetan newspaper edited by the Chinese Amban at Lhasa, and, in a note to Prince Ch'ing, copy of which I have the honour to enclose, I have asked his Highness to issue instructions without delay to the Chinese authorities in Thibet to put a stop to such publications and to cultivate friendly relations with the agents of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Sir J. Jordan to Prince Ch'ing.

Your Highness,

June 17, 1909.

THE attention of His Majesty's Government has been drawn by the Government of India to the publication of anti-British articles in an official newspaper published at Lhasa in the Thibetan language, and I have the honour to enclose herewith translation in English of extracts which appeared in issues of August, September, and October 1908. The newspaper is entitled "Thibetan Vernacular News," in Chinese

* Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

characters, bears date in Chinese, and is circulated throughout Thibet as a publication of the Chinese officials in Lhasa.

In the view of His Majesty's Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs and for India and of the Government of India, serious consequences may ensue from the dissemination of such articles amongst ignorant Thibetans, and I am instructed to bring to the notice of the Chinese Government the unfriendly attitude assumed by the Chinese resident at Lhasa towards His Majesty's Government and the British agents at the trade marts.

I am confident your Highness's Government will recognise that the publications referred to are calculated to stir up hostility, and that instructions should be issued without delay to the Chinese authorities in Thibet to put a stop to them and to cultivate friendly relations with the agents of His Majesty's Government.

I avail, &c.

J. N. JORDAN.

[28110]

No. 37.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 242.)

Sir,

Peking, July 6, 1909.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 220 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a note which I have received from the Wai-wu Pu in reply to the representations addressed to them on the subject of the publication of anti-British articles in a newspaper at Lhasa.

As you will perceive from this note, steps have been taken to prevent any further publication of such articles.

I have sent a copy of the note to the Government of India.

I have, &c.

J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Wai-wu Pu to Sir J. Jordan.

Sir,

Peking, July 2, 1909.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note, stating that a certain Thibetan newspaper at Lhasa, called the "Pai Hua Kuan Pao," had been publishing anti-British articles. Your Excellency requested that instructions might be sent to the Chinese Resident in Thibet to stringently prohibit such articles.

Our Board accordingly telegraphed to the Chinese Resident in Thibet to investigate and prohibit such publications. His reply has now been received to the effect that he has instructed the newspaper in question that in future the publication of articles of the tenor complained of is strictly forbidden.

We have the honour to communicate the above for your Excellency's information.

We avail, &c.

[29696]

No. 38.

War Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 7.)

THE Director of Military Operations presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and begs to transmit, for his information, a translation of extracts from the "Russki Invalid," dated the 10th March and the 13th May, 1909, relative to the progress of Colonel Kozloff's expedition in Mongolia.

Major-General Ewart would point out that according to these extracts Colonel Kozloff appears to have crossed the frontier of Thibet, thereby contravening the agreement made between the British and Russian Governments that no scientific mission should be allowed to enter Thibet, unless by previous agreement, for a period of three years dating from the 18th August, 1907.

War Office, August 6, 1909.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Extract from the "Russki Invalid" of February 26 (March 10), 1909.

A LETTER dated the 28th October (10th November), 1908, from P. K. Kozloff from the oasis of Gui-din, on the upper waters of the Khuankhe, describes the work of the second, or Kuku Nor, period.

Since the expedition left Alashan in July 1908 it has succeeded in visiting the Southern Alashan desert, Eastern Nanshan, and the high Alpine lake Kuku Nor. During its visit to the last named it visited the mysterious island of Kuisu, thereby greatly impressing the local natives and the Chinese of Sinin, who attributed magical powers to the expedition.

Leaving Din-yan-in the expedition split up into three parties. The eastern one, under Captain Napalkof, set out on the 29th June (12th July) via Chzhun-bey-Hu-yun-chzhun-Tsin-an and Lan-chau-fu to Sinin; the western, under the geologist of the expedition, Chernof, left on the 2nd (15th) July via Sogo-Khoto-Lyanchau and Datoon for Lake Kuku Nor; the central, under Kozloff, moved on the 6th (19th) July via Sayan-chen-Lin-fan-syan and Sinin also for Lake Kuku Nor.

The route of the main caravan (third party) crossed the desert in its shortest south-western direction; the heat effected even the camels. To facilitate marching, especially in the waterless tracts, the caravan used to start off at 2.3 A.M. and marched till twilight. During the first half of the route the sand at times attained a temperature of 70° C. (158° Fahrenheit) and burnt the feet through boots; the air was extremely dry, and the party with difficulty reached Shirigin Dolon, a small lake, or rather a large pond, where a twenty-four hours' halt was made. The second half of the route, across the Teniri (celestial) sands, was negotiated without trouble, thanks to cloudy weather, and the caravan then crossed Eastern Nanshan in a new direction. The towns and villages passed differed in no essentials from those of western China which other travellers have described. In the second half of July (early August), when crossing Nanshan, it was found that harvesting had already been begun in the valleys on the lower and middle slopes of the hills; and the villages, as in Russia, were left in charge of the very old and young.

At the end of July (mid-August) the main caravan reached Sinin, a big provincial town, with the residence of the Chinese official who is responsible for the nomads not only of Kuku Nor, but also of distant North-eastern Thibet. It was made welcome by the officials, who offered their help in the intended expedition to Kuku Nor. But they warned the party of the presence of numbers of Tangots and Thibetans who were armed, and were more daring than ever in their attacks on caravans, with quick-firing rifles. Small hopes were held out of them reaching the island of Kuisu on account of the difficulties of crossing the lake, which is exclusively negotiated when frozen by a few pilgrims. Kozloff had to sign a declaration absolving the Sinin authorities of all blame for the consequences to his party of going to Lake Kuku Nor. He was given an interpreter who talked Chinese, Mongolian, and Thibetan, and four sowars, who quickly made friends with his grenadiers and Cossacks.

From Sinin the caravan moved to Donger, whilst Kozloff made a detour to visit Grumbum Monastery, lying one march south of Sinin, built 500 years ago. Resident in the monastery are more than 2,000 monks and sixty-three "gecheru" (or brothers superior). There are twelve churches, including four large ones which were saved from the onslaughts of the Dungs by the fanaticism of the young lamas. The monastery is said to possess 600 Japanese rifles and the necessary amount of ammunition. The churches with their golden roofs and their numerous idols, with a historic reputation from Mongolia, Thibet, and even India, are much revered by Buddhists.

On the 15th (28th) August the expedition reached Lake Kuku Nor, which is some 350 versts (330 miles) in circumference. The extent of this Alpine basin, the colour and saltiness of the water, depth, high waves and occasional heavy surf, give the impression of a sea rather than a lake. But it is to be noted that with every year the lake is drying up, its level is lowered, and coast-line shortened.

On the 17th (30th) August the caravan camped and spent three weeks at Yrto, on the southern shore, which is nearest to Kuisu Island.

Meantime the geologist Chernof rejoined from an expedition of 850 versts (570 miles) which struck diagonally across the Alashan desert, i.e., via Din-yuan-in-Lian-chau, and traversed Nanshan in a new direction.

After one unsuccessful attempt Chernof and Chetvirkin on the 31st August (13th September) succeeded in reaching the island in their folding tarpaulin boat after seven and a-half hours incessant rowing in changeable and cold weather, covering 27 versts (15 miles). They found on the island three hermits who dwell in caves and are Tanguts and Ramas. Having informed the caravan by signal of their safe arrival, they remained four days on the island exploring, &c.

The island is situated almost in the centre of the lake. Somewhat nearer the southern shore the approximate height of the main ridge is 200 feet; the length of shore hardly exceeds 5 versts (3.3 miles), the greatest length of the island is 2 versts (1.3 miles), and breadth, viz., in the middle, is about $\frac{1}{2}$ verst ($\frac{1}{3}$ mile). The main occupation of the hermits is religious devotion. They also engage in cattle breeding (having, besides one horse, 150 sheep and goats, on whose milk they live).

On the 5th (18th) September Chernof and Chetvirkin rejoined the caravan, which remained a few days more near the lake carrying out detailed explorations. It arrived back at Sinin on the 16th (29th) September. Here the expedition met P. A. Napalkof, who had made a successful trip into the province of Gansu (Kansu).

On the 30th September (13th October) the main caravan left Sinin and the province of Sze-chuan (Sui-chuan), and on the 3rd (16th) October safely reached the oasis of Gui-Dui.

The results of the Kuku Nor expedition briefly are:—

A survey based on a series of new astronomical points was made of the routes, 2,500 versts, or over 1,650 miles. On all the routes systematic meteorological observations were carried out, and the heights of the more important points were defined by hypsometer; geological, zoological, botanical, and ethnographical collections were made, types of Chinese were collected and photographs were taken of landscapes and types in places visited.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Extract from the "Russki Invalid" of April 30 (May 13), 1909.

WE borrow from "The Voice of Truth" the following, which is the latest information of Colonel P. K. Kozloff's Mongolian expedition. Our celebrated countryman writes:—

"The Geographical Society is very interested in the expedition's discovery of Khara-Khoto, and in the rare curiosities we found there, which prove Khara-Khoto to be the long lost capital of the Tangut Kingdom of St. Sya that existed from the eleventh to the fourteenth century. Now at their suggestion we have had to exchange Sze-chuan (Si-chuan), so rich in natural history specimens, for the ruins of the ancient Tangut city. As a matter of fact, some of our party are already on the road to Sze-chuan (Si-chuan), and my assistant P. Ya. Napalkof will work there till the middle of June, while I, with the rest of the party, will go by way of Alashan to Khara-Khoto. Towards the middle of August the expedition assembles at Urga, close to our frontier (Kyakhta), which we cross at the beginning of September.

"Looking back at all that has been accomplished, we have every reason to be satisfied. The first, or Mongolian, period of the expedition gave us, amongst other things, Khara-Khoto. The second, or Kuku-Por (*sic* Kuku-Nor or Koko-Nor), period was equally successful; we not only sailed over the vast expanse of this Alpine lake, but also visited the mysterious island of Kuisu, which is 30 versts (20 miles) distant from the nearest (south) bank.

"Our success in reaching this island was ascribed by the neighbouring Chinese and nomads to a variety of supernatural causes. It struck terror into the hearts of the Kuisu lama hermits, who saw two foreign visitors this summer for the first time. There are three of these hermits, and they have 150 head of sheep and goats—on whose milk they live—one horse, and eight wild foxes. The greatest depth of Kuku Nor is 38 metres, or 125 feet; its bottom is sandy, and in places muddy; the colour of its water is strikingly beautiful, here turquoise, there dark azure, in a third place the transparent liquid blue of the sea on the coasts of Italy.

"After the Kuku Nor period came the Sze-chuan (Si-chuan) period. In the winter the expedition left the oasis of Gui-Dui, on the upper waters of the Yellow River, and moved south over the foot-hills of Amdoi. The latter country reminds one of the best parts of Thibet; everywhere are hills of gentle outline, diversified by luxuriant

meadows and pastures, over which numberless herds of horses, horned cattle and sheep roam at will. The dwellings of the nomads are built on the face of the slopes that descend into nullahs, along which ripple clear rapid streams. The traveller daily meets natives journeying in various directions over the rolling steppe. The majority of these nomads are armed with European magazine rifles, mostly of German make. Some of these nomads tried one night to annihilate our little band of Russians. Had they not attacked the party sent out to relieve the sentry they would have succeeded. As it was, the party roused us with a rifle shot and gave us time to meet the enemy fully prepared.

"Having satisfactorily ended our winter excursion, we returned to the Amdoi Monastery of Labran, which contains in its many buildings about 3,000 lamas, and here we spent a fortnight studying the various interesting races before going to Lan-Chau-Fu, where I am writing these hasty lines.

"And so, in October, after two years' absence, we shall return to our beloved country."

[31416]

No. 39.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 18th August, relative to the movements of the Dalai Lama.

India Office, August 18, 1909.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Government of India to Viscount Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

August 18, 1909.

INFORMATION that the Dalai Lama is expected to reach Lhasa this month has been received by the political officer, Sikkim.

[29696]

No. 40.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 20, 1909.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to send you herewith a copy of a letter received from the Director of Military Operations,* War Office, enclosing translations of articles in the Russian press, according to which it appears that the Russian traveller, Colonel Kozloff, recently took a scientific expedition to Lake Koko Nor, which is situated within the boundaries usually assigned to Thibet.

The Secretary of State for India is aware that, in an exchange of notes between His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg and the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 18th (31st) August, 1907, it was formally placed upon record that the two Governments considered it undesirable that either of them should, without previous agreement with the other, allow the entry of any scientific mission into Thibet during a period of 3 years from the date of the exchange of notes. If, therefore, the Lake of Koko Nor is held to be in Thibet, it is clearly the duty of His Majesty's Government to draw the attention of the Russian Government to what has occurred, since no previous agreement existed between the two Governments relative to the expedition in question, though, as will be seen from two despatches from His Majesty's Embassy at St. Petersburg annexed herewith,† the expedition did, in fact, form the subject of a conversation between His Majesty's chargé d'affaires and M. Isvolsky so far back as July, 1907, and the latter supplied His Majesty's Ambassador in November, 1907, with a statement of the proposed itinerary of the expedition in which Lake Koko Nor was not included.

* No. 38.

† Mr. O'Beirne No. 393, 1907 (26071); Sir A. Nicolson, No. 579, 1909 (38727).

During the negotiations between the British and Russian Governments in 1906 and 1907 it was found impossible to define exactly the boundaries of Thibet, and the Chinese Government, who were approached upon the matter, were unable to afford any assistance. The Government of India, who were asked their view in order to guide Sir A. Nicolson, stated in their telegram of the 13th July, 1906, that they regarded "as included in the term 'Thibet' the whole geographical area known as Thibet, which is bounded on the north by the Kuen Luen Mountains and extends northward and eastward to districts in the vicinity of Tsaidam, which are under the direct administration of the Chinese, and the provinces of China proper." It is not clear whether this definition would include or not the district of Koko Nor within the limits of Thibet.

His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg reported in his despatch No. 467 of the 21st July, 1906, of which a copy is enclosed herewith* for convenience of reference, that, in response to an enquiry which had been made of him by M. Isvolsky, he had informed his Excellency that roughly speaking the northern boundaries of Thibet would be the Kuen Luen range with Upper Tsaidam and Western Thaigi. M. Isvolsky then specifically enquired whether Koko Nor was to be considered as part of Thibet, and Sir A. Nicolson's reply, though not definite, gave his Excellency to understand that the lake of that name should rather be regarded as outside Thibet.

It is clear from the above that it is open to serious doubt whether the Russian Government in allowing Colonel Kozloff's expedition to visit Lake Koko Nor can be held to have acted contrary to the assurance contained in the exchange of notes referred to, and in view of this fact and of the fact that the visit in question would appear, in itself, to be devoid of any political significance, Sir E. Grey would be glad to be favoured with Lord Morley's views as to the desirability of instructing His Majesty's representatives at St. Petersburg to draw the attention of the Russian Government to the matter.

I am, &c.

F. A. CAMPBELL.

[33132]

No. 41.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 3.)

Sir,

India Office, September 1, 1909.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 20th August, 1909, as to the visit of a Russian scientific expedition to Lake Koko-Nor.

As regards the question of geography, it may be observed that in the memorandum enclosed in the despatch of His Majesty's Minister at Peking, No. 307, dated the 7th July, 1908, Mr. Garnett stated that Koko-Nor "is undoubtedly in Thibet," and the Government of India apparently share this view.† M. Isvolsky, on the other hand, in his *pro-memorid* of the 27th March, 1907, enclosed in Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 164 of the 28th March, 1907, described the province of Koko-Nor as subordinate to the Government of Peking through the intermediary of the Chinese Amban. Mr. O'Beirne in his despatch No. 393 of the 29th July, 1907, reported a statement by M. Isvolsky, that "the Geographical Society had been warned that he (Colonel Kozloff) must not cross the Thibetan frontier, and the itinerary to which the Ministry of the Foreign Office had given its consent excluded all Thibetan territory."

In these circumstances, Viscount Morley concurs in the view indicated in the last paragraph of your letter, that it is not necessary to make a formal representation of the matter to the Russian Government as constituting a violation of the arrangement established by the notes of 18th (31st) August, 1907. But, subject to any observations Secretary Sir E. Grey may have to offer, Lord Morley thinks that it would be well that the attention of the Russian Government should be drawn informally to the subject, on the ground that the visit of Russian explorers to territories which are regarded by some authorities as part of Thibet may give rise to embarrassing criticisms.

I am, &c.

COLIN G. CAMPBELL.

* Sir A. Nicolson, No. 467, 1906 (25934).

† *Vide* Viceroy's telegrams of July 13 and 22, 1906, communicated to Foreign Office, July 17 and 23, 1906.

[33132]

No. 42.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 11, 1909.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, relative to the question of causing informal representations to be made to the Russian Government with regard to the visit of Colonel Kozloff's expedition to Lake Koko Nor.

Sir E. Grey observes that Viscount Morley is of opinion that it would be well, in order to avoid embarrassing criticisms, that the attention of the Russian Government should be drawn informally to the subject. In view, however, of the facts set forth in the letter from this Department of the 20th ultimo, and, in particular, of the negative reply given by Sir A. Nicolson to M. Isvolsky's enquiry as to whether Koko Nor was considered to be within the limits of Thibet, Sir E. Grey is of opinion that it will be sufficient if copies of the correspondence are sent to His Majesty's representatives at St. Petersburg and Peking for their information, and without any instructions being addressed to the former to take action in the matter.

I am, &c.

F. A. CAMPBELL.

[34723]

No. 43.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 298.)

Sir,

Peking, August 24, 1909.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 193 of the 7th July, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a memorandum which I have handed to the Wai-wu Pu and in which I reminded them of the assurances given by the Chinese Government that no harm would come to the Tashi Lama on account of his visit to India.

I have, &c.

J. N. JORDAN.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Memorandum communicated to Wai-wu Pu by Sir J. Jordan.

ACCORDING to reports which have reached the Government of India from Thibet, it would appear that the Lhasa Government have recently sent an officer to Shigatse to make enquiries concerning the visit of the Tashi Lama to Calcutta in the winter of 1906-7. Further, the Indian Government learn on good authority that the Tashi Lama is apprehensive of ill-treatment when the Dalai Lama returns to Lhasa.

I am instructed by His Majesty's Government to call the attention of the Chinese Government to these reports, and to point out that, while they have full confidence in the intention of the Chinese Government to observe the assurances contained in the memorandum from the Wai-wu Pu of the 27th February, 1907, that no harm would come to the Tashi Lama on account of his visit to India, His Majesty's Government think it as well to acquaint them with the apprehensions of the Tashi Lama with a view to securing for him the good offices of the Chinese Government should the occasion arise.

Peking, August 20, 1909.

[35621]

No. 44.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 24.)

Sir,

India Office, September 23, 1909.

IN reply to your letter dated the 11th September, 1909, as to the visit of Colonel Kozloff's expedition to Lake Koko Nor, I am directed to say that

Viscount Morley accepts the view of Secretary Sir E. Grey that it will be sufficient if copies of the correspondence are sent to His Majesty's representatives at St. Petersburg and Peking, for their information, without any instructions being addressed to the former to take action in the matter.

I am, &c.

COLIN G. CAMPBELL.

[39162]

No. 45.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 561.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, October 17, 1909.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch No. 272 of the 1st instant relative to the visit of a Russian scientific expedition to Lake Koko Nor. I asked Mr. Rockhill, the United States Ambassador, whether, in his opinion, the above-named lake was in Thibetan territory. His Excellency, who has visited Lake Koko Nor, said that it could not possibly be considered as forming a portion of Thibet. It was a district under the administration of the Chinese authority at Sining, and was quite outside of Thibetan territory. He knew that Sir T. Holdich held a different opinion, but he understood that that officer based his view on the fact that Thibetan tribes inhabited the district. This was quite true, but Mongolian tribes also lived there. Moreover, the argument that the district belonged to Thibet because people of Thibetan race lived there would hardly hold water, as the western districts of the Szechuan province of China were almost exclusively inhabited by Thibetans. When he was travelling in those regions the Chinese authorities, who, at that time, forbade any travellers entering Thibet, made no difficulty whatever to his visiting the Koko Nor districts, treating them as well within the Chinese frontier. Mr. Rockhill was also of opinion that Tsaidam was outside of Thibetan limits, and any one who had been in the localities would at once see that the range of mountains immediately to the south of the Tsaidam swamps formed the natural boundary of Thibet.

Subsequently to stating his opinion as quoted by the India Office, Mr. Garnett took the opportunity of numerous conversations with prominent Chinese officials in Mongolia and Chinese Turkestan to enquire the official Chinese view as to the position of Koko Nor, and, as it was invariably held that that district did not form part of Thibet, Mr. Garnett wishes to correct his opinion previously given.

I have, &c.

A. NICOLSON.

[39901]

No. 46.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 30.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of enclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 7th October, relative to the proposed establishment of postal communication between China and Thibet via India.

India Office, October 29, 1909.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Inspector-General of Chinese Imperial Posts, Peking, to Director-General of the Post Office of India.

Calcutta, August 20, 1909.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th May last, and to express to you the inspector-general's thanks for the readiness you express on the part of your administration to meet China's requirements for the exchange on union principles of mails to and from Thibet for conveyance through your services, and the information you have kindly supplied on the routes actually followed beyond the frontier into Thibet.

This administration is making preparations for the opening between the frontier and Lhasa of post-offices, which, however, are not likely to begin operations just immediately. I shall have the honour to address you again as soon as our proposed exchange service can begin on the conditions given in your letter under acknowledgment.

[41645]

No. 47.

Sir J. Jordan to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 183. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, November 12, 1909.

LIANG TUN-YEN told me to-day that Chao Erh-feng was faced with a serious state of unrest in the Thibetan marches; so much so that the Chinese Government, having reason to fear complications with Thibet, and desiring to strengthen their influence at Lhasa, were contemplating the dispatch of a body of troops to the Thibetan capital. The difficulty and expense attendant on the transport of an expedition overland from China was such a serious consideration that his Excellency ventured to ask me privately whether the Government of India would be prepared to grant the troops a passage through India on their way to Lhasa. He would therefore be very grateful if I would endeavour to ascertain how His Majesty's Government would regard such a proposal, were the Chinese Government to submit it formally. The number of troops would be, his Excellency added, between 1,000 and 2,000.

I promised to put the matter before you, but I told his Excellency that his proposal was somewhat out of the ordinary.

[41645]

No. 48.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 15, 1909.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to send you herewith a copy of a telegram from Sir J. Jordan,* reporting a conversation with his Excellency Liang Tun-yen, in which the latter expressed a wish to know what attitude His Majesty's Government would take up if the Chinese Government formally asked permission for the passage of a body of Chinese troops across India on their way to Lhasa.

Sir E. Grey would be glad to have the observations of the Secretary of State for India on the question raised by Liang Tun-yen.

I am, &c.

F. A. CAMPBELL.

[42891]

No. 49.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of enclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 4th November, relative to the affairs of Thibet.

India Office, November 22, 1909.

Inclosure in No 49.

Mr. Macdonald to the Political Officer in Sikkim.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Yatung, October 25, 1909.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that a Thibetan who has just arrived from Nagchukha states that the Dalai Lama has arrived at Nagchukha from Kharka, in Mongolia, with 2,000 camels, 1,000 horses and mules, and a large number of followers, and that he intends to arrive at Lhasa by the 3rd of the 10th month (15th November, 1909). He will halt at Reting for three weeks *en route*. The Tashi Lama is also at Nagchukha, and may either return to Shigatse via Lhasa or by the northern route. A trader confirms the above report.

2. A trader from Lhasa confirms the report which I have heard a few days ago that Ti-Rimpoche, the regent, has been compelled to resign his post, and that Shata Shapé, the same who had been to Darjeeling in connection with the Sikkim-Thibet Convention of 1890, has been appointed to succeed him as *desi* or regent.

I have, &c.

D. MACDONALD,

British Trade Agent.

[43213]

No. 50.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received November 26.)

Sir,

India Office, November 25, 1909.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant regarding the attitude that His Majesty's Government should take up if the Chinese Government formally asked permission for the passage of a body of Chinese troops across India on their way to Lhasa.

In reply, I am to inclose copy of a telegram from the Government of India on the subject, and of a letter from His Excellency the Prime Minister of Nepal, which seems to bear directly upon it. Viscount Morley concurs with the Government of India as to the political risks that would result from complying with this extraordinary request. He would further observe that it is no part of our policy to assist China in enforcing her claims over Thibet. Such assistance, while not likely to render the Chinese more amenable to our wishes in respect of the fulfilment of the Lhasa and Peking Conventions, will certainly secure for us the ill-will of the Thibetans themselves. The present moment, when the Dalai Lama is about to return to his capital, and when it is quite unknown what attitude he intends to adopt towards us, would seem to be singularly ill-chosen for committing ourselves in any way beyond the requirements of our treaty obligations.

Lord Morley would therefore suggest that Sir J. Jordan might be instructed to inform Liang-tun-yen that the practical difficulties in the way of giving effect to the wishes of the Chinese Government are so great that he fears that it would be quite useless for them to make a formal proposal on the subject.

I am, &c.

R. RITCHIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Government of India to Viscount Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

November 22, 1909.

WITH reference to telegram of the 12th instant from His Majesty's Minister at Peking, we are of opinion that the passage of Chinese troops through India to Thibet would have the effect of disturbing the whole of the north-eastern frontier, and probably of throwing into the arms of China the Nepal and Bhutan States, which now look to us against China. Our relations with Nepal would be seriously affected by any action such as that contemplated. We trust, therefore, that the proposal will not be entertained by His Majesty's Government.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Lieutenant-Colonel Manners-Smith to the Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Nepal, October 20, 1909.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the copy of a letter, dated the 18th October, from the Prime Minister to my address, which has reached me to-day, regarding the reported intention of the Chinese Government to garrison Thibet with Chinese troops, and the attitude of the Thibetan authorities towards this question.

Inclosure 3 in No. 50.

*Major-General Maharaja Sir Chandra Shumshere Jang Bahadur Rana to Lieutenant-Colonel Manners-Smith.**Nepal, October 18, 1909.*

MAJOR Jit Bahadur, writing from Lhassa under date the 12th Ashwin, 1966, corresponding to the 27th September, 1909, informs me of the intention of the Chinese authorities at Lhassa to bring down there some Chinese troops from the Thindu (Cheng-tu) side. He has even heard a report that those Chinese troops have already arrived at Mahakham, in Thibet, and says that the Thibetan Government appears to be bent upon checking their advance towards Lhassa, and thus there is a possibility of serious complication arising between China and Thibet. The local Chinese amba has also given intimation to the Thibetan authorities of the coming of 1,000 Chinese troops without, however, mentioning the time they were to be expected. Major Jit Bahadur got this information in his interview with the Chharong Kazi. I give below a translation of the report made to me by the former on the subject, thinking you will be interested to read it. He says: "While I was at the Chharong Kazi's place the day before yesterday to arrange for the exchange of some 50,000 or 60,000 Thibetan mohurs from the Lhassa Government Treasury with the silver which our China mission had brought with them, and after that business was settled the kazi told me that the amba had sent for him and other Thibetan officials and announced to them that 1,000 Chinese soldiers were to come to Lhassa from the direction of Thindu (Cheng-tu) via Maha Kham, in order to safeguard the Thibetan territory at the expense of the Government of China, the Emperor having been graciously pleased to spare Thibet from any expense on their account by way of pay, supply of provisions, &c., and that those troops which, the amba assured, would never molest or otherwise trouble the people of the country, should be given a free passage in Thibetan territory, clearly understanding that any show of resistance on the part of the Thibetans to their advance would be fraught with serious trouble to the latter. The Thibetan officials begged the amba not to import any soldiers from outside, but that he might be pleased to keep as many Thibetan soldiers as was required, for the supply of which they had made repeated offers. But the amba refused to listen to this entreaty, saying that the measure having originated from the Chinese Emperor himself, could never be rescinded. So the Chinese seem to cherish an inward wish of possessing themselves with all the authority in the country by importing troops to support them in the attainment of their object, which would mean that they would give no rest or peace to anybody in the country. On account of this, and also because of the Potala Lama having previously written to them to arrange with the Gurkha Government, who was their friend, or kith and kin so to say, and a faithful follower of God and religion, for the training of the Thibetan troops, and doing other necessary things, the Thibetan officials have been holding private consultations amongst themselves with a view to making a representation to His Highness the Maharajah (of Nepal).

[43213]

No. 51.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir J. Jordan.

(No. 190.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, November 29, 1909.

PLEASE see your telegram No. 183 of the 12th November: Passage of Chinese troops through India to Thibet.

I am sending you by bag copy of a letter from India Office, in which they indicate insuperable objections to the proposal of Liang-tun-yen.

If you consider it desirable, you might simply tell Liang, at any suitable moment, that it would be quite useless for the Chinese Government to approach His Majesty's Government formally on the matter, since there are great practical difficulties in the way of our entertaining such a proposal.

[46297]

No. 52.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 21.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Viscount Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of enclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 2nd December, relative to the desire of the Chinese Government to inaugurate a postal service in Thibet.

India Office, December 20, 1909.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Sir J. Jordan to the Earl of Minto.

My Lord,

Peking, October 12, 1909.

WITH reference to the despatch of the 24th May from the Secretary to the Government of India, in which he forwarded to me copy of correspondence regarding the desire of the Chinese Government to inaugurate a postal service in Thibet, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Teng Wei-ping, of the Imperial Chinese postal administration, has been deputed to proceed to Thibet viâ India and Yatung with the object of making the necessary preliminary arrangements.

In reply to the request made to me by the acting inspector-general of posts, I have informed Sir Robert Bredon that I am recommending Mr. Teng to the Government of India for such facilities as that gentleman may require while travelling to Thibet.

I have, &c.

J. N. JORDAN.

Further Correspondence Respecting the Affairs of Thibet Part XII 1909. Apr. 1910. TS Political and Secret Department Records: Series 20: Political and Secret Department Library (1757-1952): Foreign Office Prints (1843-1937) IOR/L/PS/20/FO87/1. British Library. China and the Modern World, link.gale.com/apps/doc/MJBLDA827004281/CFER?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-CFER&xid=8d1e155f&pg=1. Accessed 21 Apr. 2022.